

French, Jordanian banks sign accord

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The French bank Credit National signed an agreement with Jordan's Cairo-Amman Bank on Tuesday to provide economic aid for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, diplomats said here. The French bank, which acts on behalf of the treasury, will provide 20 million francs (\$3.2 million) in aid, in accordance with a pledge by President Francois Mitterrand. The funds will be used to guarantee loans to Palestinian businessmen made by the Cairo-Amman Bank and to finance development projects. The loans will be for agricultural and industrial goods, along with French service products. The Cairo-Amman Bank reopened its branches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1986. It is the only Jordanian bank currently operating in the Israeli-occupied territories. A Franco-Palestinian protocol on aid was signed last June. Norway, which brokered the historic deal between Israel and the PLO, will contribute to major infrastructure projects in the occupied territories, Norwegian government officials said Tuesday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

British aid worker freed in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali kidnappers released British aid worker Calum Gardner unharmed in Mogadishu on Tuesday after some 24 hours of negotiations with a clan elder. "He is out (of captivity) but he is not physically yet in the office," Gennaro Londeani, head of the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) in Somalia, told Reuters. "He is on his way. I just spoke to him by radio and he is very well and in very good humour." Mr. Londeani said the 35-year-old British finance officer, who was kidnapped by three Somali gunmen Monday as he walked between the WFP office and his home, had a radio he used with him when he was abducted. "He was never allowed to use it while he was in captivity. But he just called me and said he is released," Mr. Londeani said. He said a joint team from the WFP and British charity Save the Children fund plus the Somali elder who had been negotiating for the Briton's release since Monday would collect him. He declined to say who held Mr. Gardner or where he was freed. The WFP enlisted the help of clan elders to secure Mr. Gardner's release on Monday and said it had received word he was unharmed. No faction or clan claimed responsibility for the kidnap.

Crown Prince, Major hold talks

LONDON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday met with British Prime Minister John Major and discussed bilateral relations and means of promoting them. Prince Hassan and Mr. Major also exchanged views on the political situation in the Middle East and the need for respect for International Law which enhances the principle of sovereignty and meets human needs of the region's people. They also discussed the possibilities of bringing about economic and trade cooperation between the countries of the region and Europe.

Tarawneh to serve as envoy to Mexico

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday appointing Dr. Fayez Tarawneh as non-resident ambassador to Mexico. Dr. Tarawneh is Jordan's ambassador to the United States. Another Royal Decree was issued Tuesday appointing Dr. Abdul Rahman Ahyat as president of Muta University.

Spanish official arrives for talks

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Under-Secretary of the Spanish Foreign Ministry Francisco Villiar arrived in Jordan Wednesday via the King Hussein Bridge on a two-day visit to Jordan. Mr. Villiar will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on bilateral relations.

Weekly licensed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers has granted journalist Fahd Al Rimawi a licence to issue a political weekly. The Arabic-language weekly will be entitled Al Majd. Mr. Rimawi is making preparations to publish the first issue in April.

NATO leaders hail Mideast peace accords

BRUSSELS (AFP) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders on Tuesday hailed Mideast peace accords saying they offered "an historic opportunity" for a peaceful and lasting settlement in the region. "This much-awaited breakthrough has had a positive impact on the overall situation in the Mediterranean, thus opening the way to consider measures to promote dialogue, understanding and confidence-building between the countries in the region," NATO said in a statement concluding a two-day summit. The 16-state alliance encouraged "all efforts conducive to strengthening regional security."

Iraq-U.N. talks delayed by 2 weeks

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Talks between Iraq and the United Nations on the embargo in force since August 1990 have been delayed by two weeks, a U.N. official said here Tuesday. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz had said the negotiations would be held in mid-January in New York. But the U.N. official said they would now open at the end of the month or in early February. "The two sides are busy compiling the necessary documents before the next round of negotiations," the official told AFP. "They need two weeks to prepare for the meeting." He also said that long-term monitoring of Iraq's post-war weapons programmes "has in effect started."

Iran reports major seizure of alcohol

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian security forces seized 26,000 litres of alcohol in a house in eastern Tehran this week and arrested several people who had turned the house into an "alcohol factory," the Kayhan daily reported Tuesday. Reports of major seizures of alcoholic drinks have become increasingly common in the Iranian media. A huge haul of 60,000 litres of alcohol found in Tehran was reported last October.

Progress reported in Taba negotiations

Document being drafted on points of agreement and disagreement

TABA (Agencies) — New Palestinian demands for corridors out of the Jericho autonomous region bogged down peace talks Tuesday, but Israeli and Palestinian negotiators reportedly came to terms on other key points of the autonomy plan, officials said.

Israel Television reported that the talks would recess after Wednesday's sessions to allow both delegations time to consult with their political leaders.

Nabil Shaath, the chief Palestinian delegate, and Israeli spokesman Ami Gluska both said negotiators were hammering out a written document summarising points of agreement and disagreement, but dismissed earlier reports that a final agreement had been reached.

"I cannot say there is agreement on anything yet," Colonel Gluska said. "We have presented our positions, and on some of them there is no response yet, but on other points the Palestinians are demanding more, if there was agreement we would be celebrating, but there isn't."

"All issues are being discussed," Dr. Shaath said. "We will not announce any agreement on specific items because all of the problems are interrelated."

The Palestinian negotiator said that with sufficient goodwill an agreement might come in three weeks, but without it the talks might take much longer.

Israel Radio reported earlier

that the sides had reached agreement on control of border crossings, and Israeli newspapers said the Palestinians had agreed to an Israeli proposal for the size of Jericho.

Talks on implementing the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord for autonomy in the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho on the West Bank resumed Monday at this Egyptian Red Sea resort after a two-week hiatus.

Disagreement over control of border crossings and the size of the autonomous areas has already delayed by a month the Dec. 13 target for starting Israeli troop withdrawal.

The Israeli delegation head, Major-General Amnon Shahak, the deputy chief of staff, and Dr. Shaath met privately in the first session Tuesday, Mr. Gluska said.

Dr. Shaath said the sides then met separately to discuss security-related problems and the transfer of the autonomous zone's civilian administration to the Palestinians.

The two sides agreed to write down all points of accord, to avoid a repetition of the fiasco in Cairo on Dec. 29, when Israel claimed an understanding had been reached on the main bone of contention, only for the PLO to deny it.

"A drafting committee (on military issues) has started to write down the subjects on which we agree and the security questions on which differences remain," Col. Gluska told AFP.

"The delegation heads to the

committee on civilian issues are doing the same," he added.

The military committee, made up of a legal expert and a military officer from either side, met in a ninth floor suite of the Hilton Hotel at this resort.

Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yoel Singer and General David Agmon, a chief of staff adviser on the intifada, were drafting a document with Camille Mansur, an international law professor and the PLO's Abdul Razak Al Yahia.

The four face the main issues which have delayed implementation of the autonomy deal — the size of the Jericho enclave and the control of borders and crossings between the autonomous areas and Jordan and Egypt.

Israeli Gen. Gadi Zohar, head of the military administration in the West Bank, and Palestinian businessman Jamil Tariq, met to draw up a list for the civilian committee, which covers the transfer of powers to the Palestinian authority for health, education, direct taxation, social welfare and tourism.

The decision to draft a list of points was taken by Gen. Shahak and Dr. Shaath during their tete-a-tete in Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, the Palestinians continued to demand access to the Dead Sea and several religious sites south of the Jericho enclave.

"We are no longer talking about square kilometres for

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Kabul battles subside, refugee flight continues

KABUL (Agencies) — Fighting between rival Afghan forces subsided Tuesday after 10 days of fierce clashes that left hundreds dead and more than 4,500 injured.

Analysis said the combatants could be gathering strength for a fresh flare-up. The city has been in the grip of a devastating power struggle with the combined forces of Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum and Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar battling to end the rule of President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Most parts of the capital were relatively quiet in the morning, though sporadic explosions rocked the eastern districts with rockets and shells landing on the Zambourak hills.

Most shops remained closed in central Kabul but retail business resumed in the western district where shops were open and people were seen buying daily necessities.

On Tuesday more than 400 families, many of them Kabul with little more than the clothes on their back, crossed into Pakistan. Border guards said more than 1,200 of Tuesday's refugees were young children.

In the past three days up to 18,000 Afghans have sought refuge in Pakistan, border officials said.

The United Nations estimates another 50,000 Kabul residents fled 115 kilometres east to Jalalabad, where the U.N. was trying to get desperately needed aid to several makeshift camps on the outskirts of the city.

Sixteen U.N. trucks, packed with emergency supplies, left for Jalalabad Tuesday from Pakistan.

The latest fighting in Afghanistan began Jan. 1 when troops loyal to Mr. Hekmatyar tried to topple President Rabbani.

But, Mr. Rabbani appears to have been able to maintain his grip on key government buildings

and strategic military sites. Government-owned Kabul Radio, off the air for more than one week, resumed broadcasting on Monday.

However, Gen. Dostum, whose soldiers are known for their ruthlessness, control the major cities and towns in northern Afghanistan, despite attempts by Mr. Rabbani's soldiers to wrestle control away.

Gen. Dostum's biggest military strength is his fleet of Soviet-made fighter jets parked on the tarmac of the airport at Mazar-e-Sharif, 300 kilometres north of Kabul.

Mr. Rabbani's soldiers on Tuesday accused Gen. Dostum of bombing its biggest air base at Bagram, 40 kilometres north of Kabul, but said the damage was minimal.

"This bombing doesn't have much effect on us," said commander Bismillah Khan.

Gen. Dostum's planes have made occasional sorties over Kabul, hitting government buildings and some residential areas.

Meanwhile, in Pakistan representatives of the U.N. and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) tried to broker a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Ibrahim Baka, the OIC's special representative on Afghanistan met with representatives from both Mr. Hekmatyar's and Mr. Rabbani's groups.

Sadiq Chakhri, a Rabbani spokesman, said the president was ready to talk to Mr. Hekmatyar but refuses to negotiate with Gen. Dostum because of his communist past.

Mr. Chakhri said Mr. Rabbani also planned to go ahead with general elections in six months. But Mr. Hekmatyar's spokesman, Saeed Qaribur, said his party is demanding Mr. Rabbani's immediate resignation.

Mr. Qaribur also said temporary ceasefires only allow

PLO and Egypt near economic agreement

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Egypt are expected to agree an economic accord this week similar to the one which the PLO signed with Jordan covering future links in Palestinian self-rule areas, PLO officials said Tuesday.

No date for signing the agreement has been set. PLO officials say it is likely to be immediately after Israel and the PLO agree details of Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The PLO Executive Committee has agreed a draft for the accord with Egypt and the head of the PLO's Political Department, Farouk Kaddoumi, is to visit Cairo this week to finalise it, the officials said.

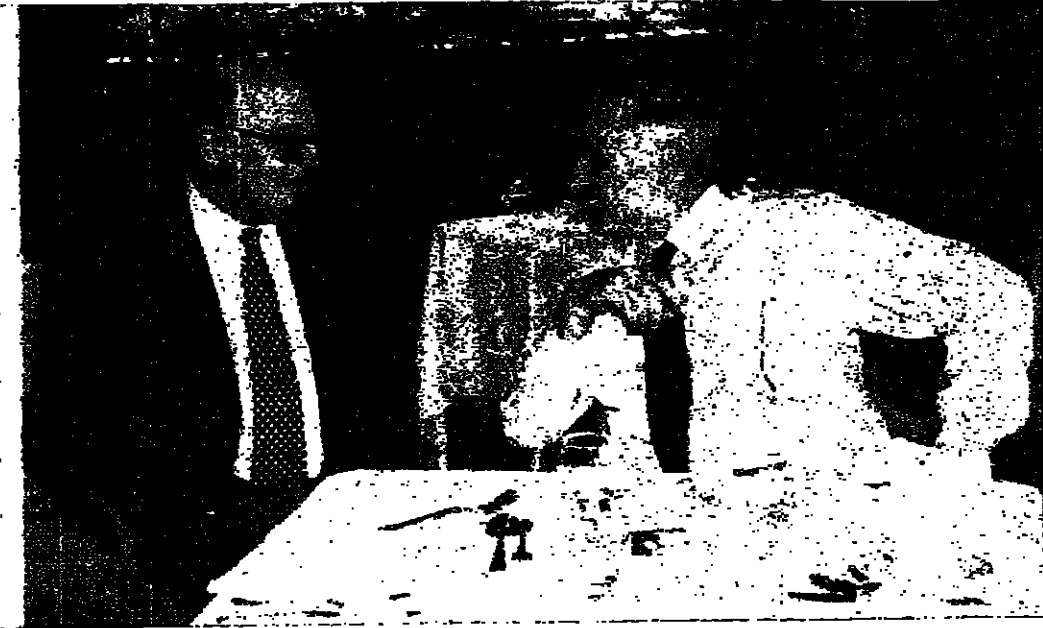
Palestinians say the first result of the agreement would be the opening of joint Palestinian-Egyptian banks and the establishment of a free industrial zone in Rafah in the Gaza Strip.

The PLO representative in Cairo, Saeed Kamal, said: "The framework of this accord, which will be signed soon, was examined during the recent visit to Cairo of Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi."

He declined to provide details on the agreement but said it "aims at bolstering the special ties between Egypt and the PLO as well as promoting the Palestinian economy."

"The details and bases of this accord will be examined (by both parties) in the next two weeks," he added.

Mr. Kamal also said the agreement would be different from the joint declaration signed Friday in Amman between Jordan and the PLO, but did not say how.



Israeli chief negotiator Major-General Amnon Shahak (right) and Palestinian counterpart Nabil Shaath meet over lunch Tuesday on the second day of renewed talks in the Red Sea resort of Taba (AFP photo)

Draft budget under fire in House; deputies table demands

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — General discussions of broad economic principles and demands for more services in various parts of the Kingdom Tuesday dominated the first day of a Lower House of Parliament session on the draft budget for 1994.

But some deputies specifically criticised the JD 1.487 million budget for increasing expenditure as other lawmakers challenged the government's contention that the budget is "deficit-free."

Twelve deputies took the floor in what is expected to be a four-day session that will end with a House endorsement of the draft budget, which was presented to the legislature last month.

The Finance Committee at the House Saturday recommended that the House approve the draft budget after introducing some amendments that mainly request a "symbolic" reduction in expenditure.

The committee recommended that the government cut by JD 6 million its projected JD 36 million current expenditure for 1994 but Deputy Abdullah Ensour (Balqa) said the reduction should be much higher.

The draft budget projects a 12 per cent increase in current expenditure over the actual

current expenditure in 1993

but Dr. Ensour said the increase over 1993 should not have been higher than five per cent, adding that such an adjustment would cut by JD 70 million the "deficit" in the budget.

Dr. Ensour described as false the assertion of Minister of Finance Sami Gammon that the budget was deficit free, saying that he estimated the deficit at JD 450 million.

Dr. Ensour also questioned the accuracy of the budget's estimate of the growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) and demanded that the government explain the source of the projected increase in local revenues.

Dr. Ensour also cast doubt on the correctness of government figures on unemployment, claiming that earlier information provided by the Ministry of Finance put unemployment at 19.7 per cent, compared to the 12 per cent that Mr. Gammon announced when he presented the budget to Parliament.

The government was also challenged over its estimates of the level of poverty in the country by Deputy Ahmad Kassabeh (Karak).

Mr. Gammon had said that the level of poverty in Jordan went down from 21.30 per cent of the population in 1991 to 16.2 per cent in 1992. But Mr.

Kassabeh said a study conducted by the Department of Statistics estimated that the poverty level in 1992 stood at 21.3 per cent. He said only in Amman it stood at 16.2 per cent while it would reach 26.7 per cent in the Kingdom if the capital and the central city of Zarqa are excluded.

Deputies also demanded that the government raise salaries of public servants and army personnel and do not lift subsidies from basic goods. They said the controversial sales tax should not be introduced if it would lead to a higher cost of living.

Deputies also said the government should devote more efforts to accelerating economic development and growth outside the capital, with Mr. Kassabeh pointing out that 74 per cent of private investment is located in the capital.

The rural and badiah areas should receive more attention from the government and private and public corporations should contribute to economic growth in areas where they are located, deputies said.

They said the allocations of funds to various governorates in the Kingdom do not correspond with their needs, adding that the earmarking of separate budgets to the eight governorates did not do much to

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan to help revamp Yemen army, end crisis

AMMAN (R) — Jordan, trying to reconcile Yemen's squabbling leaders, has agreed to a Yemeni request for help in reorganising its divided army, officials said on Tuesday.

Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker discussed the demand in detail during a brief visit to Yemen on Monday, his third in less than two months to try and avert a political crisis threatening to tear the country apart, the officials said.

Major-General Eid Rawdan, head of the Jordanian army's training and operations department, attended Sharif Zeid's separate meetings with President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Taiz and Vice President Ali Salem Al Beedhi in Aden, they added.

"We have agreed to their demand and we are going to send them a number of qualified Jordanian army officers soon to help them reorganise the army (that never united after the merger)," a Jordanian official told Reuters.

He declined to give more details on the type of help sought by Yemen. Other officials were not immediately available for comment.

Southern and northern army units that were to have merged under the 1990 agreement which unified the two states have not been fully integrated.

Aden, capital of the former South Yemen, has accused Sanaa, capital of the former North Yemen, of placing its forces on full alert and recalling border troops.

King Hussein was expected to arrange for a reconciliation meeting between Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beedhi either in Yemen or in Amman after he returns from a visit to Washington later this month, another Jordanian official said.

"We expect it to be held in a month from now," he added. "Of course, if there was no hope in reconciling them and in saving the country, the King would not have involved himself personally and at the request of the two Yemeni leaders... and Sharif Zeid would not have gone there three times as his envoy."

Yemeni party sources said on Tuesday the country's rival groups have agreed on military and political measures they hope will end the crisis. (see page 10).

Clinton starts talks with Visegrad chiefs in Prague

PRAGUE (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton began talks here Tuesday trying to convince leaders of the four Visegrad ex-communist states of the wisdom of his go-slow approach on bringing them into the West's security orbit.

During a 24-hour visit, he was due to have talks with the heads of state of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia on the so-called Partnership for Peace, which has been criticised in particular by Poland.

The partnership proposals, on increased military cooperation between the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and ex-communist states, were agreed by the 16 NATO members in Brussels Monday (see separate story).

Mr. Clinton arrived here Tuesday afternoon — on his first official visit to Prague — to be greeted by Czech President Vaclav Havel and Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus.

After official ceremonies and a brief hand-shaking walkabout at Prague's historic Hradcany Castle, the president's official residence, Mr. Clinton went into talks with Mr. Havel and Mr. Klaus.

Details were not immediately available. In a statement last week the Visegrad group of countries said the partnership was a good first step, but made clear their desire for fuller integration into NATO as soon

as possible.

Mr. Clinton is due on Wednesday morning to hold separate meetings with Hungarian President Arpad Goncz, Polish President Lech Walesa and Slovak President Michal Kovac.

The four Visegrad states have accepted the partnership proposals with varying degrees of enthusiasm, Poland has been particularly critical in calling for faster moves towards full NATO membership.

Optimism over Ukraine

President Clinton conceded earlier Tuesday that a plan to dismantle Ukraine's nuclear force could face a tough fight in the former Soviet republic's parliament, but he predicted its approval.

"Executives often have to sell to their legislative branches what they know is in the best interest of their country," Mr. Clinton said.

He likened Ukrainian President Leonid M. Kravchuk's fight for the new pact — announced on Monday — to his own battle for U.S. congressional approval of a contentious free-trade pact with Mexico and Canada.

Mr. Clinton spoke at a wrap-up news conference after the NATO summit.

NATO summit ends, signalling a new era

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Revamping the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in the post-cold war era, alliance leaders on Tuesday wound up a two-day summit by declaring a readiness to let their former foes in Eastern Europe join the exclusive club one day.

But the allies, fearful of isolating Russia, a formidable military power, did not draw up a timetable or a list of candidates for membership in the organisation.

In a final statement, the 16 leaders endorsed the American proposal "Partnership for Peace," which invites East Europeans to take part in military exercises and other limited activities.

"The offer is there," said NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner. "The door is open."

"NATO is bent on bringing Europe together," said British Prime Minister John Major. Added Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, "if we can expand the membership, let's do it."

And President Bill Clinton told the East Europeans: "Ultimately, the partnership will lead to the enlargement of NATO."

Lithuania, a former Soviet republic, quickly moved to accept the alliance's partnership offer.

President Algidas Brazauskas instructed his government to start "immediate preparation" to sign a partnership document with the Western alliance.

The approval of the partnership plan was part of efforts by the 44-year-old alliance to redo its image and give it new missions after the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. NATO was formed to thwart expansionist Soviet policies.

In their statement, the allies also renewed their commitment to the Trans-Atlantic link which they described as the "bedrock of NATO."

"All our countries wish to continue the direct involvement of the United States and Canada in the security of Europe," it said.

Several leaders praised Mr. Clinton for reaffirming his intention to keep 100,000 troops in Europe. A reduction in forces to that level, expected to be completed in 1996, would be down from 325,000 in 1991.

As an interim measure, NATO offered military cooperation to East European, former Soviet and neutral states, including joint exercises, offices at the Brussels headquarters and the right to call for "consultations if they felt threatened."

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U.N. chief recommends reduced Somalia force, warns of anarchy

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Monday proposed reducing the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia to 16,000 troops, warning that the country remained at risk of civil strife and anarchy.

In a report to the Security Council, the U.N. chief painted a grim picture of deteriorating security, rearming and fighting among clans, and growing banditry in Mogadishu and elsewhere. He said threats and attacks directed at international relief workers had increased, forcing them to stop activities in some parts of the country.

In Mogadishu, meanwhile, unidentified Somali abducted a British worker with the U.N. World Food Programme, Calum Gardner, as he walked to his office Monday morning. About 26,000 U.N. troops remain in Somalia. But the United States, France, Belgium, Sweden, Italy and other countries have announced plans to withdraw their soldiers, that could leave only 19,700 U.N. troops in Somalia by the end of March.

The United Nations has appealed to 42 countries for additional troops and logistic support to make up for the losses, but there have been few positive responses, except from India and Pakistan which promised earlier to send 2,300 more soldiers.

"Without the continued stabilizing presence of an adequate U.N. force, there would be an early resumption of civil strife and an unravelling of all that has been achieved at the cost of so much sacrifice — human and material," Dr. Ghali told the council in a report released Monday.

"There are growing indications that the major factions are actively rearming in anticipation of renewed hostilities in the coming months," he said.

Security problems have made donor states reluctant to contribute troops and aid to Somalia.

The council was expected to begin considering the secretary-general's report this week. Diplomats said it was likely to approve the U.N. chief's recommendation of a



Boutros Ghali

force of 16,000 before the current mandate expires at the end of May.

As before, the secretary-general outlined three options — a major force of 30,000, with coercive military powers; a middle-sized contingent of 16,000 without coercive powers; and a 5,000-man force that would only keep open the country's major ports and airports.

Dr. Ghali said he preferred the first option, including forcible disarmament to the clan militias if necessary, but said it was not practical because of the troop withdrawals.

Given the circumstances, he recommended the force of 16,000. This would be sufficient to protect ports and airports, help deliver relief shipments and keep supply routes open, train Somali police and set up a judicial system, and repatriate refugees.

But Dr. Ghali expressed doubt that even the second option was workable without the required commitment of troops, material and financial resources.

He also doubted whether reconciliation among the Somali people had progressed far enough for the United Nations to assist in nation building and reconstruction.

U.S.-led troops arrived in December 1992 to help Somalia recover from the famine and anarchy which claimed 350,000 lives that year. The

United States turned the operation over to the United Nations in May, but it quickly soured. Critics say the United Nations focused too heavily on trying to capture warlord Mohammed Farah Aided to the expense of its humanitarian mission.

After an Oct. 3 firefight with Aided forces that killed 18 American soldiers, a Malaysian peacekeeper and about 300 Somalis, the U.N. force stopped trying to capture General Aided and instead tried to bring him into negotiations on a political settlement.

While the U.N. had been preparing for a diminished military presence, however, the security situation for the civilian aid workers has grown markedly worse. There is little fighting among the clan militias, but banditry and other violence has been on the rise.

The safety of aid workers and food shipments was one of the major justifications for the U.S.-led intervention in Somalia 13 months ago.

U.S. gets "black eye"

Former President George Bush said Monday that the United States has received a "black eye" around the world for its "stop-and-start" foreign policy in Somalia.

Mr. Bush's criticism came during a \$500-a-head fundraising luncheon for Senator Paul Coverdell, a Georgia Republican. About 250 Republican supporters attended.

Mr. Bush said the initial goal of the United States was to end starvation in Somalia, which is why he agreed to commit 28,000 U.S. troops in the waning days of his administration.

The United States went into Somalia "with that limited mission in mind," he said.

But, Mr. Bush said, "somewhere along the line the policy changed. It got clouded. We started into a stop-and-start kind of a mentality relating to Somalia."

He said the United States is now trying to extricate its troops from a dangerous situation in Somalia, "but not without the United States having received a black eye all around the world for this stopping and starting, good news, bad news situation."



REBUILT: Iraqi Minister of Military Industry and Mining Hussein Kamel Hassan (second right) visits Beiji refinery, 200 kilometres north of Baghdad, at its reopening on Monday (see page 7). The refinery was bombed during the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait (AFP photo).

Kenya seeks Israeli investments

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli leaders praised Kenya Monday for its help in the Entebbe rescue and Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi urged Israelis to invest in his country.

Mr. Moi, president of the one of the most influential black African states, expressed concern Kenya's stability was being strained by an influx of refugees.

"There is now serious insecurity in many parts of our country as a result of these refugees entering into our land with sophisticated arms and weapons," Mr. Moi said in an address to the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

He said Kenya now hosted the seventh largest refugee population in the world, most from Somalia.

Mr. Moi added that Kenya has benefited from Israeli business ventures and was "confident that my visit here will serve to consolidate those ties."

Africa is one of the strongest markets for Israeli arms.

Mr. Moi is the most important African leader to visit Israel in recent years. He is only the third African president to ever address the Knesset.

Kenya has had tense relations with the West in recent years over its weak commitment to democratic elections, with aid cutoffs threatened. Mr. Moi joins a string of countries at odds with the West like North Korea and Vietnam who see Israel as a potential intermediary.

Earlier, Mr. Moi and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed an agreement for further scientific cooperation as well as more educational and cultural exchanges. Israel currently grants some 70-100 Kenyan students free university education each year.

Mr. Rabin took the opportunity to publicly thank Kenya for letting Israeli transport planes refuel there on their way back from Entebbe, Uganda, where Israeli commandos rescued 98 hostages hijacked there by Palestinians and Germans in 1976.

"I can tell you with certainty that had not Kenya been prepared to help us, that life and death operation could not have been carried out," said Mr. Rabin.

Israel had until now acknowledged only that its planes had been forced to land in Nairobi. It was the first indication that the landing had been coordinated beforehand.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres also thanked Mr. Moi for Kenya's help in the rescue.

Israel goes private, even on the kibbutz

By Dan Perry
The Associated Press

KIBBUTZ BEEROT YITZHAK — When Eliczer Shafir decided to raise money for the communal farm's industrial pipe factory by selling stock, old-timers were startled.

They argued that capitalism was not "our style," recalled Mr. Shafir, who manages the plant on the kibbutz in central Israel's lush coastal plain.

A year later, this type of privatization is catching on with other kibbutzim. It is part of a growing economic tide that appears to be drawing Israel inexorably from its socialist roots.

After a slow start, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government is making good on campaign promises to sell state industries to private investors and encourage the breakup of state monopolies.

Government income from selling factories and banks grew from less than 295 million shekels (\$100 million) three years ago to about 4.35 billion shekels (\$1.5 billion) in 1993.

Among holdings sold were a majority interest in Shekem department stores, which began as a chain of sheds selling snacks and basics to soldiers; Nafta, the main distributor of gasoline to retail stations; and the Magen insurance company.

Not everyone is pleased about the passing of socialism.

"The government should have more than pure business concerns in mind," said Shmuel Elgrubi, a spokesman for the Histadrut federation of trade unions. "The moment a company goes private, the result is cutbacks and layoffs. Jobs will be moved to slave labour in Singapore or Graz."

Socialism was a guiding light for the Zionist pioneers, who espoused equality and sacrificing for a common ideal.

The Histadrut started its own companies to create jobs and provide its members — nearly all the country's workers — with housing, health care and other services. It became a major employer and nearly synonymous with the government because of its association with the Labour Party, which ruled Israel for its first three decades.

Even though they are not technically state-owned, Histadrut companies are generally regarded as part of a public sector that employs — directly or indirectly — near-

ly 20 per cent of Israel's two million workers.

State enterprises include the airline El Al, the main banks, newspapers, food manufacturers, communications companies, construction firms, department stores, insurance companies and oil exploration.

Yossi Nitzani, head of the state companies authority, said many operations "grow wild" because of the natural inclination to expand, but that a statist economy has been much more successful in Israel than in communist countries.

Although defence industries lost 1.1 billion shekels (\$400 million) last year because of the global recession, others turned a combined profit nearly as great, he said. In 1992, Mr. Nitzani added, state-owned companies were responsible for 17 per cent of the national income and 19 per cent of exports.

Inefficiency and patronage are a problem, however, officials have been accused of using state companies as a dumping ground for party hacks in need of jobs.

Israeli governments' paid lip service to privatization for years, but it did not really begin until the return to power in 1993 of the Labour Party, which had created Israeli socialism.

Because of the patronage allegations, Mr. Rabin's government set up an independent commission to choose top managers for the public companies.

Comparatively little foreign money has been attracted to the privatization so far, but Mr. Nitzani said he hopes to attract more this year. Companies going on the block include El Al, Zim Shipping Lines, the telephone company, Israel Chemicals and several banks.

Unions worry about their members' jobs. When Israeli Aircraft Industries, being considered for privatization, announced plans in December to lay off up to 4,000 workers, the Histadrut held a one-day general strike and got a government promise to consult in advance about major sell-offs.

Doron Tamir of the Israel Manufacturers' Association maintains that Israeli workers who are laid off will be able to find new jobs quickly because they are educated professionals.

He described privatization so far as "more talk than action," and said it "must be quicker, larger-scale and more decisive."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-official admits signing 'Iraqgate' orders

LONDON (AFP) — Former Home Secretary Kenneth Baker admitted Tuesday preventing the release of two documents which would have proved British authorities were aware of illegal sales of material with military uses to Iraq during the 1980s. Mr. Baker, who was interior minister between 1990 and 1992, made the admission while giving evidence to the public inquiry into the so-called "Iraqgate" arms scandal. Mr. Baker told the inquiry he had twice signed public interest orders during trials brought by customs authorities against British firms accused of breaking the international arms embargo imposed on Baghdad in 1994. The orders allowed documents proving the companies in question were operating with the support and even encouragement of the British intelligence services to be withheld from judicial authorities, the inquiry was told. Iraqgate broke in November 1992 after directors of one of the firms, machine tool manufacturers Matrix Churchill, were acquitted. The judge in the case said he believed the government had given behind-the-scenes encouragement to the defendants' business deals. Mr. Baker said Tuesday that ministry officials had not informed him of the exact contents of the documents withheld from the courts.

Regional Algerian governor killed in ambush

ALGIERS (AFP) — The prefect of Tissemsilt, 280 kilometres southwest of Algiers, Mohammed Bellal, and his escort were killed in an ambush Tuesday, the security services said. A statement blamed an armed Islamic group for the attack on the regional governor. It did not give the size of the escort.

Court orders analysis of Kraouche papers

PARIS (AFP) — Court authorities have ordered an expert analysis of documents reportedly linking a France-based Islamic activist with armed Algerian extremists. The court also summoned for questioning police who interviewed Moussa Kraouche during a search of his home in November, when the papers were allegedly found among his belongings. The documents purport to include copies of a claim from another movement, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), that it had kidnapped two French aid workers, and a letter given to Michele Thevenot, one of three staff in France's Algerian embassy taken hostage in October, by her captors. The court issued its directives after a private hearing in which Mr. Kraouche, the 34-year-old president of the Algerian Brotherhood in France (FAF), which has close ties to Algeria's banned militant Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), did not dispute the origin of the papers. But in an interview Sunday with weekly Journal du Dimanche he accused French police of abusing their powers and planting the allegedly incriminating documents in his house. Mr. Kraouche said police had "fabricated false evidence against me by slipping three pieces of paper into my briefcase that I had never seen before and which do not belong to me." Mr. Kraouche was detained on Nov. 13 on charges of associating with criminals involved in "terrorist" activities and released on police bail on Dec. 2.

Top Saudi official visits France

PARIS (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province Governor Prince Mohammed Ben Fahd arrived here on Monday for a three-day official visit and meetings with French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur scheduled for Wednesday. The governor, a son of King Fahd, was holding talks Tuesday with Industry and Foreign Trade Minister Gerard Longuet, Defence Minister Francois Leotard and Interior Minister Charles Pasqua. Prince Mohammed, sometimes described as the king's "businessman" although he has no government portfolio, was also scheduled to dine with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and meet with French business leader Francois-Xavier Ortolan. The governor's visit, arranged some time ago at the invitation of both Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Balladur, follows the latter's weekend visit to Riyadh during which France hoped to clinch major arms deals. Instead, Mr. Balladur's visit ended only with the establishment of a committee of experts charged with Franco-Saudi economic dossiers. Saudi Arabia is currently faced with financial problems resulting from falling oil prices and a debt backlog from the Gulf war three years ago. The governor, whose province produces most of Saudi Arabia's oil, was likely to continue discussions with French leaders raised by Mr. Balladur at the weekend. French foreign ministry sources said.

Saudi held for smuggling out of Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwaiti police recently arrested a Saudi serviceman trying to smuggle 36 cases of ammunition into his country, the Interior Ministry said Monday. The boxes containing 1,000 cartridges each were hidden in the Saudi's car. Police uncovered the cases as he tried to cross the Kuwait-Saudi border, the ministry said in a statement. The smuggler's name and rank were not given. The Iraqi army, fleeing a U.S.-led military coalition, abandoned a large quantity of arms and ammunition as it withdrew from Kuwait in February 1991, after seven months of occupation. The Kuwaiti government has repeatedly urged its citizens to turn over weapons they collected after the Iraqi retreat, but many Kuwaitis and expatriates have refused to do so.

11 Sudanese rebels switch sides

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Eleven high-ranking members of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) switched sides to join government forces in the north of the country, a government newspaper reported Monday. The daily Al Inqaz Al Watani said the 11 had announced their defection during a meeting with Parliamentary Speaker Mohammed Amin Al Khalifa in Malakal. The news came after allegations earlier Monday by rival rebel leader Riek Machar that the SPLA under John Garang was preparing to attack his forces despite a ceasefire agreement between the two factions. Mr. Riek, leader of SPLA United, which broke away from the SPLA, said the government was also massing troops.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Sports N.B.A.
18:00 News in French
19:15 Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 Two Close for Comfort
21:10 Documentary — Edgewood
22:00 News in English
22:30 Film Day One

PRAYER TIMES

05:11 Fajr
06:32 (Sunrise) Duha
11:43 Asr
14:31 Maghrib
18:18 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 510740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 675440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teresian Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 4 / 16
Aqaba 11 / 22
Deserts 3 / 18
Jordan Valley 12 / 23

Weather
Bulfinch supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will rise slightly and winds will be westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jamil Tariq 794710
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 855446
Dr. Fayez Al Dabbas 791155
Dr. Yousef Rashid 896301
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoba pharmacy 626762
Al Salam pharmacy 644943
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoba pharmacy 626762
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Hisham Hyasat 982440
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Centre 637111
Food Control Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 609131
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636361
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalifa Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akhlaq Maternity, J. Amn 642442/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642562
Mithas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664711/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsen Hospital 667270
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Harkat 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602409/0
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Bo Sina Hospital (09)987332
Al Hilum Modern Hospital (09)999900
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Catholic Hospital (02)272275
The Al-Nabes Hospital (02)271100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)341111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:15 Jeddah (RJ)
08:35 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15 Larnaca (RJ)
10:35 London (RJ)
10:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:50 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
17:25 Istanbul (RJ)
18:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:10 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
18:10 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:30 Rome (RJ)
02:15 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (MS)
10:30 Jeddah (SA)
10:30 Sanaa (YY)
12:25 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
14:35 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PI)
18:15 Paris, Damascus (AF)
19:45 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Aqaba (RJ)
09:20 Rome (RJ)
09:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
10:15 Berlin, London (RJ)
10:30 Rome (RJ)
11:00 Istanbul (RJ)
11:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
19:20 Colombo (RJ)
20:00 Riyadh (RJ)
20:20 New Delhi (RJ)
20:30 Aden (RJ)
21:30 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
21:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:35 Beirut, Paris (AF)
06:15 Beirut (ME)
11:30 Cairo (MS)
11:30 Sanaa (YY)
12:00 Jeddah (SU)
13:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:45 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PI)

KUJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Amman 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg.

Apple 750/400
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Beans 550 / 400
Cabbage 70 / 40
Carrot 180/120
Cauliflower 70 / 40
Clementine 280 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 220 / 160
Eggplant 160 / 60
Garlic 200/90
Grape Fruit 170/100
Lemon 160 / 100
Marrow (large) 80 / 40
Marrow (small) 160 / 100
Olives (green) 350 / 90
Orange 350 / 90
Onion (dry) 360 / 240
Onion (green) 220 / 140
Pepper (hot) 260 / 180
Pepper (sweet) 260 / 180
Potato 260 / 180
Radish 100 / 50
Tomato 200 / 100
Spinach 120 / 60

مَدِينَةُ الْأَمَلِ



Prince Mohammad confers with U.S. general — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, Tuesday received at the Royal Court General Joseph Hoar, the head of the U.S. Central Command who is currently on a several-day visit to Jordan. Prince Mohammad and Gen. Hoar reviewed bilateral relations, in addition to regional and international issues of common concern. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Al Hussein, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Abdul Hafez Al Kaabneh, and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali also received Gen. Hoar and reviewed with him the situation in the region and scopes of mutual cooperation and coordination, in addition to the role played by the Jordanian Armed Forces in maintaining peace and security in different parts of the world. The Royal Court Chief, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, also received General Hoar and exchanged views on regional and international issues, in addition to bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by Gen. Kaabneh and the American charge d'affaires.

Majali outlines Jordan's stand on regional issues to senators

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday reviewed Jordan's political stand and the country's political activities at the national pan-Arab and international levels during a two-and-a-half-hour meeting with the Upper House of Parliament, according to House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi.

In a statement following the meeting, Mr. Lawzi said that Dr. Majali also answered questions and queries by several senators, particularly focusing on the Jordanian-Palestinian economic deal signed in Amman last Friday, as well as the developments in the peace process.

Also reviewed by Dr. Majali were His Majesty King Hussein's mediation efforts to bring about reconciliation among the Arab countries with a view to reestablishing solidarity and united stands in the

face of the various challenges and development said Mr. Lawzi.

The Senate voiced appreciation of Dr. Majali's briefing, stressing the need for constant consultations and cooperation between the legislative and the executive authorities, Mr. Lawzi added.

Before the briefing, the Senate held a session, attended by the Cabinet members, during which it voted a decision by the House's Law Committee concerning a draft law on a teachers union in Jordan.

The Law Committee's report, as read out by its Rapporteur Ahmad Tarawneh, recommended that the House refer to the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution the question of whether such a draft law would be in line with the Constitution.

In the debate that ensued later about the draft law, senator Thounan Al Hindawi de-

manded that the House continue to examine the draft law while it is being scrutinised by the higher council and until it receives a council's reply.

But his move countered by Mr. Tarawneh who said that the Constitution supersedes all laws and regulations and as it is the highest law, it would be illegal for the House to pursue discussion of the draft law at the present.

Senator Abdul Latif Arabiyat expressed the view that since the Constitution has granted the right to other professions to form associations, he thought it would grant the teachers the same right, adding that all associations are aimed at promoting their profession.

Both senators, Bahjat Talhoumi and Zeid Rifai said that the House has no legal right to discuss the draft law in any way before it has been approved by the higher council.

Educators believe in all children's right to education

By Ica Wabbeh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN — In 1982, Hana Kurdi was in the United Kingdom to train for her job as a teacher. "I was in a small village, but I was impressed to see that the school was using modern methods of teaching, like play groups, that were having good results," said Mrs. Kurdi, an educator and the head of the Zahra Welfare Committee, a charity that operates mostly on the hills of Bani Hamida.

The committee, started in 1982, now comprises 21 members busy raising funds to help the less fortunate in the villages of Jdaideh and Areeb have their own kindergartens.

A third is planned for Baluta. The kindergartens, furnished with toys and having teachers due to the efforts of the charity, implement the national curriculum, but also teach parents on how to deal with their children and on aspects of child development.

Mrs. Kurdi and her society emulate the methodology of

Anne d'Aquila, educator in the Sheffield Children Centre, one of the most famous in England, to which she became acquainted when in the U.K. At Sheffield, children from every denomination, race and background are taught on how to integrate in the education service.

Ms. d'Aquila, on her second visit to Jordan, toured the Bani Hamida kindergartens was shown the village of Dana and became acquainted with its famous restoration efforts. To their amazement, Mrs. Kurdi and Ms. d'Aquila discovered that the village children had no school, their needs had been "completely ignored."

So now, the two women plan to raise funds and even, in the case of Ms. d'Aquila, come with teachers to train young local twijili graduates for a future kindergarten in Dana (and a playground) and to further train the existent Bani Hamida teachers.

Mrs. Kurdi also plans a library for elementary classes and more work with mothers. To

provide incentives for the mothers to attend lectures, on the occasion of religious holidays the committee gives them presents of foodstuff (rice, flour).

The focus is nevertheless the children. "We build up a structure for learning through play; we work on that as it is both educational and instructive," said Mrs. Kurdi.

Funds for carrying out work come from fund-raising functions and from individual donors. As for interaction, children and mothers from the Sanafer school, which Mrs. Kurdi owns and runs, have done field trips to Bani Hamida.

"We wanted to help children there, to let them play and communicate and learn about Amman," said Mrs. Kurdi, adding that lectures are delivered to the mothers by specialised people, most active being Dr. Munawar Shamaileh from the Ministry of Planning who visits and is the "link between the committee and the kindergartens."

Woman burns herself to death

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 21-year-old woman from Jabal Jofeh committed suicide Monday, following a family argument with her husband, according to civil defence and police reports.

Abeer Halaby, a Syrian national, died in front of her house door after she poured gasoline to her body and burnt herself, Bakri Halabi, the victims' husband told police.

Mr. Halaby, 37, told police he tried to put off the fire in an effort to save his wife, but failed, according to police reports.

The couple, who have been living in the area for four years, were rushed to Al Bashir hospital. The woman was declared dead upon arrival and the husband suffered

minor burns on his hands, according to civil defence reports.

A 45-year-old Jofeh resident, who owns a store on Khalid Ibn Al Walid Street, across from the couple's residence, told the Jordan Times the couple frequently quarrelled; he never expected the woman would commit suicide, though.

"I was shocked when I heard about the incident because Abeer was well-mannered and respected by everyone in the neighbourhood," the man said.

A 65-year-old man who lives in the same building with the couple also expressed sorrow at the woman's death. "The woman was very kind and a helpful neighbour to everyone," the man told the Jordan Times.

The victim left three girls, a four-year-old, a two-year-old, and a nine-month-old.

"The girls are staying with their grandparents for the time being, until police finished investigation the case, and my daughter is volunteering to take care of her children if no one does," the neighbour said.

Zarqa police seize smuggled cigarettes

Zarqa police Tuesday were able to thwart the smuggling attempt of a truck driver. Five hundred and thirteen cartons of cigarettes were seized by police from under potato bags, according to police report.

The report indicates that the truck driver, who was not identified, hit another car while driving on the Amman-Zarqa highway. Police became suspi-

cious when the truck driver did not stop. They tried to pull him over, but the driver fled. Police chased him, and arrested him. When they searched the truck, they discovered the cigarettes. The report did not indicate the destination or source of the seized cigarettes how long the chase took.

10-year-old run over by pick-up

A 10-year-old Irbid boy was killed Monday after being run over by a pick-up, according to police report.

Ali A. A. was playing in the street when he was struck by a pick-up driven by a 40-year-old man. The boy died instantaneously.

Traffic officials have taken the driver into custody and attributed the accident to negligence on the driver's part.

Jordan inaugurates International Year of the Family

King: The family is the basic unit of the society, responsible for raising reliable new generations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that the family constitutes the basic unit of the Jordanian society's structure and serves as the natural environment for raising children and providing them with the society's culture.

In an address, inaugurating the International Year Of The Family in Jordan, King Hussein said that Jordan has been keen on implementing Arab and international covenants and on providing the appropriate legislative and administrative guarantees which contribute to the development of the family, the protection of its

rights and ensuring its welfare.

In his address, delivered on television on his behalf by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sgour, King Hussein said that the Jordanian society draws its values and ethics from the Arab, Islamic and sublime humanitarian principles, noting that relationship among its members is based on the concept of citizenship.

Relationship among the members of society in Jordan is also based on participation of all factions and institutions in the process of construction and production, with the aim of attaining socio-economic progress within framework marked by freedom, social justice, respect for human rights and dignity.

Referring to the duty of the state towards the family, King Hussein said: "The state, with its various institutions, ought to provide for the family the requirements for its formation, cohesion and decent living and help it shoulder its responsibilities in raising the new generation of men and women with strong, independent, cooperative personalities."

"The state, together with the family, should work out national policies and programmes aimed at mobilising the

potentials of the youth to enable them to shoulder responsibilities and embark on productive and creative work."

"Special attention should also be given to the care of the handicapped members of society who should be provided with vocational training so as to be able to share their life with the community."

Noting that the U.N. General Assembly had in 1989 decided on considering 1994 as the International Year of the Family, King Hussein said that this decision was taken in order to achieve a number of objectives, all of which emphasise the importance of the family as

the basic unit for a healthy society.

The U.N. declaration aims at increasing awareness among the public about the role of governments and other sectors and about the impact of economic, social and demographic developments on the family and its members, said the King.

He said the declaration calls on the social institutions to respond favourably to the problems that affect families and step up their efforts, at the local, national and regional levels, to implement programmes for the advancement of the family.

enlightening to me," given the fact that it is the first visit to the Middle East after taking office, Mr. Fukuda said.

Japan is playing a key role in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process. In addition to chairing the multilateral working group on the environment, it is vice-chairman of the committee on regional economic cooperation and water.

Japan is also a member of the working groups on refugees and arms control.

Japanese officials accompanying Mr. Fukuda said two meetings were planned in Cairo next month, of consultative committees of the multilateral phase, to discuss "a series of specific ideas" for specific projects involving regional cooperation in various fields.

Asked how he viewed the progress of the peace negotiations between the Arabs and Israel, Mr. Fukuda said: "It is important to be optimistic."

Expressing hope that the peace talks would eventually lead to a just and fair peace settlement in the region, he added: "Nobody is going to benefit from failure (of the peace process), but everybody will lose from failure."

Fukuda: Japan ready to extend assistance to help Jordan overcome economic difficulties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday met with Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroshi Fukuda who reaffirmed Japan's appreciation of Jordan's role in the Middle East peace process and Tokyo's pledge to extend assistance to the Kingdom.

Mr. Fukuda said that during the 30-minute meeting, he made a general review of the developments in the peace process and Japanese-Jordanian relations.

Noting that Dr. Majali visited Tokyo last month and "impressed the (Japanese) government of the difficulties facing Jordan resulting from the Gulf war," Mr. Fukuda said his country stood ready to extend assistance to help the Kingdom overcome its economic difficulties.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Fukuda, who is on a Middle East visit billed as a familiarisation trip, recalled that his prime minister, Morihiro Hosokawa, had promised Jordan to help it alleviate its foreign debt burden. "The promise meant that

Japan will make more assistance available to Jordan since (Tokyo) is in no position to write off debts," Mr. Fukuda explained.

Japanese assistance was discussed during his meeting with Dr. Majali, Mr. Fukuda said. But he declined to be specific.

However, he confirmed that Japan was "in the final stage" of granting an \$80 million loan to help develop Jordan's energy sector.

"We also touched upon other potential projects and programmes which will be of mutual interest," he said.

Japan holds about \$900 million of Jordan's \$6.88 billion foreign debts. Most of the Japanese part of the debts is in the form of soft loans for long term at nominal interest rates extended during and after the Gulf crisis of 1990-1991.

Japan attaches high importance to its relations with Jordan because of the Kingdom's key role in the Middle East peace process and its "geopolitical" features, Mr. Fukuda said.

"We are watching with admiration the efforts demonstrated by Jordan to advance the peace process and

also towards a free market economy," he said, adding that Japan also appreciated the Kingdom's participation in international peacekeeping operations.

By coincidence, he said, during a trip to the Dead Sea on Tuesday he met a Jordanian officer who served with the U.N. force in Cambodia, where Japan also maintains an army unit.

The officer, whose name was not immediately available, spoke about his time in Cambodia and of his meetings with Japanese counterparts, Mr. Fukuda said.

The encounter, the Japanese minister said, "is the kind of experience" that one enjoys and gives an added personal dimension to bilateral relations.

In the broader context of Japanese contribution to the Middle East peace process, Mr. Fukuda noted that Tokyo has pledged \$200 million in assistance to support the Palestinian self-rule envisaged under the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deal.

"This is not a political statement, but a firm commitment," he said, adding that \$25 million of the aid

were already disbursed in the public health and health sectors in the occupied territories.

"We are in a hurry to disburse the rest of the amount, and we are in continuous contact with the World Bank and others," he said.

Asked whether Japan shared a reported international feeling that there are no "credible" Palestinian institutions to channel the more than \$2.2 billion aid pledged at a donor's conference in October, Mr. Fukuda said:

"The legal requirement of the Japanese assistance has to be met; after all it is taxpayers' money. We have to be satisfied on our side that the assistance is spent for the purpose for which it has been allocated and intended."

Mr. Fukuda, who arrived here Monday overland from Israel through the occupied West Bank, said he had met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, his deputy Yossi Beilin and other Israeli officials as well as Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories, including members and advisors of the peace negotiating team.

"These meetings were very

Preliminary work on electric power grid linkage starts

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and four Middle Eastern countries will meet in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Jan. 15 to initial an agreement, marking the start of work on the electric power grid linkage to be done by 1998.

The announcement was made here Tuesday by Mohammad Saeed Arafah, director general of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) who said that delegates from Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Turkey will be taking part in the meeting in the presence of officials responsible for electric power institutions in their countries and the joint technical committee in charge of the linkage project.

Mr. Arafah, who will lead Jordan's team to the Baghdad meeting, said that the participants will discuss bilateral agreements, that is linkage between two neighbouring states, as an initial step, and they will also prepare a draft technical agreement for the whole linkage project that covers funding for the scheme.

He said that the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah have expressed readiness to cover the cost of the whole project.

The meeting will also revise and study technical matters related to the original feasibility study and will prepare an agenda for a ministerial meeting by the five countries, to be held in Cairo in May, according to Mr. Arafah.

The Baghdad meeting is to be considered as a continuation of the practical process of linking the five countries electric power grids, in implementation of a ministerial resolution on the project taken by the five countries in June last year, Mr. Arafah continued.

He said the five countries' ministers responsible for energy decided in their meeting in Damascus in 1992 to complete the first stage of the project by 1997. This, he said, entails laying networks between Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Turkey, while the second stage entails linking Syria with Iraq, to be completed by 1998. He said that one last stage entails linking Iraq with Turkey, by 2002.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Al Abdali at the Orfali Art Gallery.
- ★ Photo exhibition by artist Muwaffaq Al Sheikh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sadik Kwaish entitled "Talisman" at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Guy De Maupassant at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Iraqi books at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhrulnissa Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "Permanent" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2).

DRAMA

- ★ Drama for children entitled "The Question" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

- ★ A one-hour programme featuring a condensation of the most popular games of the week with play-by-play announcement at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Poetry recital by poet Ali Al Ameri at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:00 p.m.

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Union they deserve

SHOULD 52,000 government teachers be allowed to form a union that would regulate and promote their profession and protect their rights?

The Lower House of Parliament is determined to see a union established, the government is not happy and the Senate is undecided.

The matter has been under consideration now for three years. It originated at the Lower House when deputies asked the government to submit a law enacting the establishment of an association for teachers. The government obliged, according to the Constitution, but it did so only grudgingly because it apparently feared that the association would be exploited by political parties. While the government wrote the draft law it forwarded a petition to the Higher Council for the interpretation of the Constitution asking it to rule whether the establishment of the proposed union was constitutional or otherwise. The Council (made up of the Senate speaker, three senators and five senior judges) deliberated the issue but failed to reach a decision. The panel of nine was split, five against and four for, only one vote short of rejecting the union in accordance with the Constitution.

Meanwhile the draft law itself had been passed by the Lower House and forwarded to the Senate.

Since the government of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, like all its predecessors, continues to be reluctant to accept the eventuality of a union. It therefore wrote once more to the Senate speaker urging the Higher Council to look into the matter.

The Higher Council will now have to consider the matter once more, and this time it must feel that it should take more time in discussing all the pros and cons of establishing it. But apart from the relevant articles of the Constitution, the Higher Council should take into consideration three factors. First is the fact that a teachers' union was in fact established in the 1950s, which means the step is not unconstitutional. It must be recalled that that union was dismantled in those days after the Baathists controlled it and used it as a political tool, which explains the fear now that the Islamists might repeat the Baathist experiment but in different ways. Second is the very important factor that most of the country's 52,000 teachers are eager to have a union to use for furthering their rights and their profession. The third and most important factor that the distinguished judicial panel should consider is that democracy and human rights depend to a great extent on the people's right to associate and form societies that serve and protect their interests. Since our teachers, entrusted as they are anyway with the sacred task of educating our children and thus shaping our future, are one of the most neglected segment of the society, they, more than any other professionals, need to have rights addressed. If it is a union that they want, let us help them form one.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON a visit by a U.S. congressional team to Lebanon to help locate missing Israeli troops since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said one can only look at such practice with contempt and condemnation. The U.S., which possesses vast military and economic power, employs it only in the service of Israel and in ways for killing or helping Israel kill people, said the daily. The U.S. practices, which tend to starve the Iraqis and cause continued sufferings for the Palestinians, take a different nature when the case is connected with Israel which has enjoyed total U.S. support for its atrocities over the past four decades, continued the daily. Never has the U.S. sent a congressional team to look for the displaced Palestinians so as to give them shelter, nor has a U.S. senator ever visited the region to call for an end to the Israeli crimes or to demand that the starving people of Iraq receive food and medicine, said the paper. Nor even did any congressional team ever come to the region to search for the victims of the U.S. ship Liberty which was sunk by the Israelis, it added. We realise that the U.S. policy does not adhere to the minimum level of ethics nor does it give any meaning or appreciation to any values or principles, but for Washington to send a U.S. congressional team to look for the remains of Israelis missing in Lebanon, where Israel launched aggression, is nothing despicable, manifesting a total collapse of morals in America, said the paper. The team's visit to Lebanon is a show of cheap political hypocrisy at a time when these congressmen have pressing issues like Yugoslavia, the Palestinian and the starving Iraqis to deal with, added the daily. While describing the team's visit as a deplorable act, the paper said it is really regrettable to see the superpower degraded to such a level.

COMMENTING ON the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Tabat, Al Dustour said that the world is in for some more Israeli procrastinations and delays and stalling that would lead to nothing. Israel seems to be determined to render its deal with the Palestinians meaningless and exhaust the efforts of the Palestinians and the other Arabs, hoping to force them to accept Israel's conditions, said the paper. This is clear from Israeli officials' statements in which they predicted that the agreement talks would last months, it said.

Strobe Talbott and the new Clinton foreign policy team

By Dr. James Zogby

Despite setbacks in some areas of foreign policy, the Clinton administration maintains that its successes in dealing with Russia, Japan and on North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) far outweigh the difficulties encountered in Somalia, Bosnia and Haiti.

Each of these three hot spots were inherited from the Bush administration. According to the Clinton administration, while each is a profoundly disturbing tragedy, none has an easy solution or is a great enough threat to the vital interests of the U.S. to warrant deeper American involvement. Nor, the White House argues, should they be viewed as measures of the successes or failures of Clinton's foreign policy.

But while the president's overall public approval is on the ascent, including the public's approval of his handling of foreign policy, the administration is concerned that its foreign policy team is not doing a good enough job at explaining the president's policy to the general public or to Congress.

There were also some long standing concerns over the foreign policy team's difficulties in pitching Mr. Clinton's successes to the press.

It was therefore, out of a desire to improve the effectiveness of the foreign policy team — particularly in its dealings with Congress and the media — that the administration began to make changes in its composition and character over the past few months.

The first such change involved giving Vice President Al Gore a more visible foreign policy role. Mr. Gore is well-respected by his former colleagues in Congress and his intellect and thoughtfulness inspire confidence in the press and public alike. Thus, it was not surprising that the president would turn to the vice president for help.

The foreign policy experience of most vice presidents is limited to representing their presidents at the funerals of foreign dignitaries. But already, in the first year of the Clinton administration, Mr. Gore has made major international visits to Russia and Mexico, and has been called upon to host the only two "state dinners" of this Administration (one for President Mubarak of Egypt and one for Prime Minister Rabin of Israel). Mr.

Gore's involvement in foreign policy included his leadership role in the NAFTA debate, and his launching of the "Builders for Peace" initiative designed to secure U.S. private sector investment in the economy of the West Bank and Gaza.

The next change in the Clinton foreign policy team was the resignation of Secretary of Defense Les Aspin and his replacement by retired Admiral Bobby Ray Inman. Mr. Aspin had been criticised by both the military establishment and some of his former colleagues in Congress for his handling of the situations in Haiti and Somalia. The administration hopes that the Inman appointment will restore both congressional and Pentagon confidence.

Mr. Inman is a long time veteran of the U.S. military and intelligence establishments, and served as Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency under President Reagan, and also enjoyed a senior post in the Carter administration. Since leaving government he has established a fairly strong record as a business executive and his choice was universally hailed by the press and by the Congress. And although some of his business dealings have aroused some slight controversy upon closer inspection, he is expected to have an easy time during his confirmation hearing scheduled for later this month.

Yet perhaps the most interesting change in the Clinton foreign policy team is the most recent one. Clifton Wharton, the Deputy Secretary of State who resigned at the end of 1993, was not replaced until this past week by Ambassador at-large Strobe Talbott. Mr. Wharton, a businessman by training, was installed at the number two post at the State Department in order to play a managerial role. But as criticisms mounted, the administration felt that it needed to make a change and went looking for a new deputy secretary of state who would enjoy greater visibility, one who could bring policy and communications experience to the position.

Mr. Talbott's job will be to win greater support for the administration's foreign policy work. He will be asked to testify before Congress and conduct major news briefings — in short, his task will be to improve the image and public understanding of the State Department.

partment.

The fact that Ambassador Talbott was a roommate of President Clinton in 1968 (when the two were Rhodes scholars at Oxford, England), has been a close friend of the president's for 25 years and has been Mr. Clinton's closest foreign policy adviser are all important factors that will help to determine his success in this challenging position. But his professional experience will also come into play.

Mr. Talbott is a journalist by profession, and, like President Clinton, he graduated from Yale and studied at Oxford. He served for many years as correspondent for Time magazine, becoming the magazine's Washington bureau chief in 1983 and served as editor-at-large for the magazine from 1989 under 1993.

"While the president's overall public approval is on the ascent, including the public's approval of his handling of foreign policy, the administration is concerned that its foreign policy team is not doing a good enough job at explaining the president's policy to the general public or to Congress."

In April 1993 President Clinton appointed Mr. Talbott as his ambassador-at-large and special advisor on the former Soviet Republics. He was well-prepared for the job, being the author of five books dealing with the Soviet Union and the translator of Nikita Khrushchev's memoirs. But out of necessity, he expanded his expertise beyond Russian affairs during the five years he served as Time's Washington bureau chief.

Mr. Talbott is credited with maintaining firm U.S. support for Russian President Yeltsin, a policy which won praise from many quarters, even from those who disagreed it. What impressed most observers was the consistency of policy, towards Russia given the wavering policies towards Bosnia, Somalia and Haiti.

Yet, in choosing Mr. Talbott as his chief deputy, Secretary of State Warren Christopher got more than simple someone who would appease some of the critics of his handling of foreign policy. Mr. Talbott, because of his many years as a journalist, is a highly skilled communicator who, perhaps more importantly, has very

close ties to the White House and will be more able than Mr. Christopher to focus President Clinton's attention on important foreign policy issues.

Contrary to many press accounts, however, Secretary Christopher is still in charge at the State Department. Mr. Talbott's presence will free him to do the things he does best, particularly the kind of policy analysis and negotiating which won him praise during his tenure at the State Department. With Mr. Talbott as his deputy, Mr. Christopher is expected to significantly reduce his media contacts over time, allowing his more media savvy number two to handle that task. So Mr. Christopher does not seem to be on his way out of the department — on the contrary, he simply made

the decision that any smart manager makes when he needs help: he went out and got it. In order to really understand the tools he brings to the job and the viewpoint he employs, it is perhaps best to examine Mr. Talbott's long paper trail as a writer and editor at Time magazine. He has consistently advocated an activist, interventionist foreign policy, in which the U.S. would lead multilateral initiatives under the auspices of international organisations. As he phrases it, "there is a nobility and tremendous political force in the claim that American power is an instrument of universal values as well as national interests. Throughout this century that idea has helped rally other countries when U.S. presidents have called."

Mr. Talbott believes that the U.S. must increase its overall levels of foreign aid if it is to maintain its international leadership position. "It won't be possible to remain a superpower on the cheap," he wrote. "If the U.S. lets other countries control the purse strings of international development, the reins of leadership will inevitably also pass into other hands." However, he urged the U.S. to place "concerted pressure on pro-western members of OPEC, to recycle more of their petrodollars and petroyen through the multilateral institutions. The Saudis share the responsibility of major industrialised countries to help developing countries, in his view."

During the cold war, Mr. Talbott accepted most of the underlying assumptions of the U.S. policy of containment. He felt that the U.S. had to maintain military parity with the Soviet Union in order to deter Soviet aggression. However, in the 1980s he left the mainstream when he argued for drawing a clear line between containing the Soviets and alienating Third World nations sympathetic to them. He wrote: "The current tendency in the U.S. is to see the developing world as a playground for communism and as essentially inhospitable to the West risks becoming a self-fulfilling delusion." He recommended courting developing countries close to the Soviet Union, such as Afghanistan, Angola, Cuba and Vietnam, in the hopes that they would adopt more pro-western positions.

In late 1991, before the American media had focused on the war in the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Talbott condemned Serbian aggression and criticised NATO for not responding to it. He urged the western allies to consider military intervention and drew an analogy to the Iraq war, pointing out that Iraq responded only to military force and not sanctions. The strength with which he advocated this position is evident in his quote: "If the western alliance can't cope with the crisis in Yugoslavia, it (the western alliance) doesn't deserve to survive the end of the cold war."

Mr. Talbott's most extensive writings on the Middle East came during the cold war. He generally supported Mr. Bush's policies, hoping that the broad-based anti-Iraq alliance would lead to more multilateral peace initiatives and the strengthening of international organisations, ultimately leading to a new world order. He opposed the notion that the U.S. should attempt to overthrow Saddam Hussein militarily, and hoped that post-war sanctions would lead the Iraqi people to overthrow Saddam Hussein themselves.

The Gulf war also marked Mr. Talbott's first attempts to

analyse Middle Eastern society and politics outside of the context of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Like many other westerners, he has been extremely critical of Arab society and Arab governments. But prior to the Gulf war he had written extensively about the Israeli-Arab conflict.

He has consistently supported the "special relationship" between Israel and the U.S. In a 1981 essay entitled "What to do About Israel," Mr. Talbott wrote: "The wisdom of the U.S.'s sponsorship of Israel has been vindicated many times in many ways." But he explored the relationship in depth and in the same essay wrote: "It is high time for the U.S. to engage Israel in a debate over the fundamental nature of their relationship. If that means interfering in internal Israeli politics, then so be it. Israel has been intervening skillfully and successfully in U.S. politics for decades."

He also questioned whether the American-Israeli relationship is in the best interests of the U.S. well before it was politically safe to ask such a question, writing: "Israel is well on its way to becoming not just a dubious asset but an outright liability to American security interests, both in the Middle East and worldwide." Mr. Talbott said that U.S.-Israeli cooperation has got in the way of building the very international coalitions he was so in favour of, writing that this relationship "has impeded American efforts to coordinate diplomacy with the European Community, and it has complicated U.S. relations with most Third World countries, and virtually all Islamic ones."

Mr. Talbott also has argued for some time against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and has written in favour of the creation of an autonomous region linked to Jordan. During the 1980s he criticised the intransigence of Menachem Begin and the Likud Party and urged the Reagan administration to pressure Israel to engage in a meaningful peace process. He was also critical of the high levels of military aid to Israel during this period. After watching for several years that refusal of the Reagan administration to stand up to Mr. Begin, he wrote: "The U.S. is obligated to do everything in its power to thwart Begin's annexation of the West Bank."

Russia not the only obstacle to expanded NATO

By Carol Giacomo

BRUSSELS — Concern to avoid upsetting Russia is only one reason why NATO is not yet prepared to extend formal membership to the ex-communist countries of East Europe, officials and diplomats say.

NATO also wonders whether the alliance's current members could commit themselves to defending the borders of East European countries and whether the armed forces of former Warsaw Pact nations are ready for integration with those of the West.

Expansion might also weaken NATO's cohesion and its ability to take political decisions. The alliance already has trouble in reaching a consensus among its current 16 members. NATO leaders at their summit in Brussels on Monday and Tuesday will, therefore, not offer security guarantees or membership to East European countries that badly want them.

The argument has concentrated on fears that expanding NATO into Eastern Europe would upset Russia, provoking an extreme nationalist backlash that could ruin Moscow's reform drive. But NATO diplomats also cite political reasons, concerns about NATO's internal cohesion and effectiveness and a western view that the military structures of countries like Poland and Hungary are not yet ready for integration with the West.

National legislatures in all 16 NATO countries would have to vote to admit new members. Under NATO's treaty, member states must regard an attack on one of them as an attack on the entire alliance — a "one-for-all, all-for-one" philosophy binding all to the defence of each.

The political question is straightforward: Are NATO states prepared to defend people and borders beyond NATO's current boundaries — such as those of Poland, Romania or Albania — with the lives of their young soldiers?

Indications are that none of

them are remotely ready for such a commitment, especially in view of fears that Eastern Europe could see more Yugoslavia-style conflicts.

Many NATO countries, including the United States, have become more inward-looking with the end of the cold war. They no longer fear a nuclear-armed Soviet empire and many do not see regional disputes as threatening their national interests.

Public opinion and a dread of heavy casualties among alliance troops have kept NATO from any meaningful role in ending the Bosnian civil war. For many, this has undermined NATO's aspiration for a new post-cold war role.

Although U.S. President Bill Clinton renewed Washington's commitment to European Security on Sunday, Secretary of State Warren Christopher has often stressed that in 1994 the United States will not be diverted by "regional problems" like Bosnia as it was last year.

Mr. Christopher is also fond of noting that NATO is not a "social club" but a "solemn grouping with solemn responsibilities that cannot be undertaken lightly."

Even if Mr. Clinton and other NATO leaders believe the alliance should take on new members at this time, it is questionable whether they would choose to expend the political capital necessary to persuade their electorates to go along.

Mr. Clinton has already endured tough battles with Congress on the budget and on trade and is facing what could be an even more brutal fight over health care reform.

Natalie Goldring of the British-American Security Information Council said western countries could provide not win legislative approval for an expanded alliance.

Many officials and analysts say former Warsaw Pact countries are not ready for integration into the western alliance since they have little extra cash to upgrade their largely outdated Soviet-style equipment and the West has too many economic troubles

Bosnian fighting suggests guns not peacemakers will rule

By Maud S. Beelman

The Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia — The Serb bombardment of Sarajevo and the government offensive against Croats in central Bosnia bode ill for settlement of a war that has claimed more than 200,000 lives and made more than 2 million people homeless.

Neither peace negotiations in Geneva on Jan. 18 nor talk of outside intervention at this week's NATO summit is likely to quiet the guns.

Fighting usually intensifies before peace talks as each side — Serb, Croat and the Muslim-led government — seeks to improve its negotiating position.

But even by Bosnian standards, the recent shelling of Sarajevo has been intense. Meanwhile, government forces are racking up battlefield successes to the West.

There are many reasons for the surge in fighting, all point to continued war.

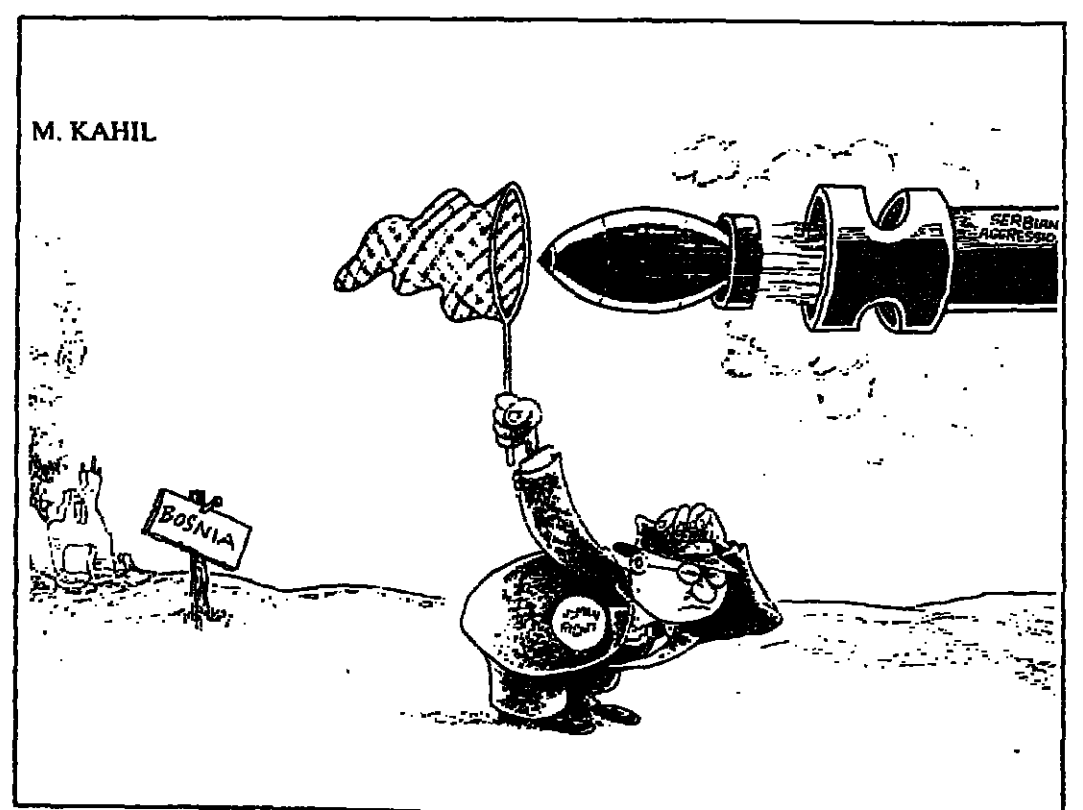
The government has rejected previous peace plans, saying the territory offered is insufficient. Feeling abandoned, the Bosnians have decided to go for broke, seizing as much land as possible before serious negotiations.

The main target has been the Croats of central Bosnia. Several villages and towns have been taken. Early Sunday, Bosnian forces cut the main road linking two ends of the major Croat enclave of Vitez.

Control of the Lasva Valley, where Vitez is located, would dramatically increase the government's hold on a swath of central Bosnia. The area would extend 120 kms from near Gorji Vakuf, southwest of the valley, to Tuzla in the north-east.

Vitez also has a major weapons factory — something the Bosnians, handicapped by an international arms embargo, desperately need.

The government also had a rare success against the better-armed Serbs in late December,



when a Serb offensive north-east of Sarajevo failed.

Sources said that Bosnian Serb commander, Gen. Ratko Mladic, dispatched inexperienced troops on the failed mission. Casualties were reportedly high, though no figures were given.

The Serbs are now bringing in reinforcements, including professional soldiers from neighbouring Yugoslavia, in the campaign to link Serb forces in the north and south and isolate Tuzla.

U.N. sources acknowledge the increased Yugoslav army presence in Bosnia, but — as with the presence of soldiers from neighbouring Croatia — have chosen not to make it an issue.

Bosnian government forces also have engaged the Serbs in a Sarajevo neighbourhood just a few hundred yards from the city's main thoroughfare.

That Bosnian offensive apparently fueled last week's Serb shelling.

The bombardment of Bosnia's battered capital is intended to pressure the Bosnian government into accepting a peace deal.

Pummeling the Bosnians into a deal reduces the chances of having to make territorial concessions — an issue splitting the Bosnian Serb leadership.

A peace agreement also increases the likelihood that sanctions on economically ravaged Yugoslavia, the Serb's close ally, could be lifted.

"For the moment, there is much too much talk of continuing the fighting," negotiator Lord David Owen said last week, questioning the point of holding peace talks.

"There isn't any firm evidence of the will to settle."

Enmity between Lord Owen and the Bosnian leadership, which sees him as pro-Serb and has called for his resignation, means no one is trusted at the talks.

The increased fighting has fueled frustration within U.N. ranks and reportedly prompted Gen. Jean Cot, commander in former Yugoslavia, to ask for the right to call air strikes. Commander in Bosnia, Lt. Gen. Francis Briquemont, is resigning early after criticising U.N. strategy.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali opposes the use of air power. France, with the largest U.N. contingent in Bosnia, pushed the war on to NATO's agenda. But no new initiatives are expected, and Bosnia barely figured in President Clinton's speech Sunday in Brussels on the future of Europe.

Talking to the Associated Press last November, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic hinted at Bosnian strategy. "There is only one rule, which is the rule of force. The rule of law is only for someone else, but not for Bosnia," Mr. Silajdzic said. "That's why there are no diplomatic breakthroughs."

Russians of Far East look to future with optimism

By Paula Sands

ANCHORAGE, USA — While western Russia flourishes in the midst of civil unrest, widespread corruption and economic reform, the eastern region often thought of as frozen waste is being brought to life by the arrival of the American West.

Pioneers like those who are taring to make their mark in the Russian Far East are lured by a bounty of natural resources — oil and gold in particular. From across the narrow straits of Bering, in America's own version of Siberia, a helping hand is extended.

The American Russian Centre (ARC) at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, has its finger on the pulse of small business in the Russian Far East (Siberia). It will promote small business and other private and public institutional development, and will also provide information on the business environment and investment opportunities to American businesses. The ARC director, Charles B. Neff, says ARC is supported by a \$2.15 million grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"At this point, most of the things that are going on in the Far East are within the Russian population," Mr. Neff explained in a recent interview. "U.S. efforts, in a sense, are just getting started."

There are peace Corps volunteers — all are MBAs and are experts on banking — primarily in Vladivostok and Khabarovsk. The

whole issue is management and profit-sharing thereafter," Mr. Neff explained. The stumbling block for a venture of this size is Moscow. "Each time there is a change of a commission or a minister or another group in Moscow, they may throw out all the agreements. They (local leaders in Siberia) are really waiting for enough stability in Moscow to give the go-ahead on the exploration. Everything is set except the degree to which they are going to share in the profits. If that one goes through, it'll be a signal that will probably attract a good deal more commercial interest into the Far East."

Meanwhile, ventures are also being undertaken by the Japanese, Koreans and South Africans. Mr. Neff says the political and commercial infrastructure needed for a business community to thrive is growing. "One of the things we are doing with our project is opening two small business development centres." The directors of the two centres left for the island of Sakhalin, to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and for Yakutsk in September.

"Those are the first of what we expect will be a half dozen small business development centres that will be located in all the major population centres of the Russian Far East," Mr. Neff said. Asked how the recent unrest in Russia will affect his project, he said, "Our attitude is that in the absence of anything that is really an overt catastrophe or chaos, we are going ahead because what we are working on is the long-term development

of the small-business infrastructure, which is necessary for ultimate economic health."

ARC also has the capability of bringing targeted, short-term technical assistance. "One of our first projects is a collaborative one with banks in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest," Mr. Neff said. "We will offer a series of training sessions with particular Russian banks to help them understand and better carry out international transactions. The bank picture is very confused because there are some legitimate banks but there are an uncountable number of small ventures where people literally go into a storefront, open up and say 'I'm a bank' and start dealing in money."

Mr. Neff says this is a totally unregulated situation. "Little by little, through our efforts and others like it, we hope that there will be some regularisation of processes that will make it possible for businesses to predict outcomes, making investment attractive."

There is a sense of energy and change everywhere, says Mr. Neff. "The economy is like a bazaar economy. It's quite eastern. Lots of trading. Lots of movement of small commodities. Businesses open and close... They have an open market... This whole process has already lasted about five years, and I think the movement is very definitely towards the development of more private enterprise and more regionalism."

"The problem right now is that the old structures have not yet been replaced by new ones. It is very difficult to find out

who's in charge." Lack of centralisation favours the quick operator because there are no rules or regulations, Mr. Neff explained. "That includes a lot of people that we would consider the criminal element. They're profiting in the short run but in the long run it's breaking down the old system," which is positive.

"I wouldn't hazard a guess in terms of months or years how long it is going to take" for normal economic structures to be put in place. "I think with a combination of foreign aid packages and some of the necessary changes that are going to occur in Moscow — again, those who say they can predict it are probably deluding themselves — something will emerge. That deadlock is either going to produce chaos or it's going to produce some increase of weight on one side or the other."

The next stage, Mr. Neff believes, is going to be a more overt kind of bargaining between Moscow and the regions as to who is going to make economic decisions. "Once that gets settled, I think rules will come in that will tend to isolate some of the people who are making quick deals."

The new system will definitely be an amalgam of communism and free enterprise, Mr. Neff says. "I think they will always have a tendency towards more centralisation — whether it's centralisation in a city or in a region or centralisation nationally — than we generally feel comfortable with in the U.S. But I think it's

going to be a lot less of an official central system than they had under communism."

Mr. Neff is travelling to Moscow in November. He explained that he will meet with "various people, including some potential partners in business training activity who are Moscow-based. I think they need to get out and work more in a national setting."

Promoting small business is a new concept in Russia, Mr. Neff says. "It has always had individual entrepreneurs, usually of an unofficial nature. Now they are out in the open. The notion of a small business that is not a controlled part of a huge enterprise is a departure. Except for the people who ran their private (agricultural) plots... there haven't been a lot of these small entrepreneurs providing small services to cities or running regional manufacturing or regional supply kinds of companies."

The idea has the support of all the Russians Mr. Neff has met, including the ambassador to the U.S. who was in Alaska in September and who agreed that most successful economies worldwide are based in large part on healthy small businesses.

The ARC centres will be offering courses for people who are already owners of small businesses or who wish to establish them. "That is something that is really new territory," Mr. Neff said. "We are not sure how many people there are of that kind. Part of what we will be doing is beating the bushes, getting them in

and providing practical orientation support systems similar to what small business development centres do in the U.S."

Mr. Neff says ARC has adapted materials from small development centres and other sources that have — "in what is pretty uniquely an American fashion" — linked educational institutions directly with practitioners in the field. "That's where the U.S. agricultural extension service came about," he explained. "We take that for granted, but no other educational system has got it. At the same time, our Russian partners — and we are partners with Russian educational institutions — want to develop a better academic programme to do management training. We fully support that." Mr. Neff says ARC will help establish these programmes and teach some of the courses.

As part of the ARC grant, up to 50 Russians from the Far East will be brought to Alaska for a combination of classroom training and internships with Alaskan businesses. And as ARC identifies the needs of particular sectors or businesses — it has already begun working with bankers — it will locate Americans with particular skills and arrange to get them to the Far East for a period of time to help the Russians in those areas.

"The other thing that we'll be doing is collecting information that we will make available both to the Russians and Americans," Mr. Neff said. "We hope to create linkages between American businesses and Russians interested in doing business with us, thereby creating joint ventures."

Mr. Neff says it is far from incidental that Alaska is involved with the Russian Far

East. "On this particular activity, Alaska will be much more involved than other parts of the U.S., although we are not drawing the line at Alaska. I imagine that we will do a number of things in partnership, particularly with people in the Pacific Northwest, but Alaska, partly because of its proximity and its historical connections... is really seen by the Russians as vital."

Even Mr. Neff is surprised at the degree to which Russians of the Far East relate to Alaska. "They know of it. They sense its proximity. Beyond that, there are obvious parallels in the makeup of the land geographically, the climate, the resources, the relation of native groups to the society as a whole, the combination of population centres... and the large, underpopulated areas around them... When they think of the kind of assistance they need to get their economy in shape, they quite logically say 'we are more likely to find practical answers that we can apply in Alaska than we will in, say, Mobile, Alabama.'"

There are going to be ups and downs," Mr. Neff said. "There are going to be crises. It's partly a matter of just enlightened self-interest and guesswork to conclude that it's the long-term development that needs to be the primary focus." He speaks Russian, has travelled several times to the former Soviet Union, and expects to visit three or four times a year in connection with the ARC project. Mr. Neff has held academic and administrative positions at the universities of Hawaii and Wisconsin and at the State University of New York. He holds a graduate degree in international relations from Yale — World News Link.

Draft budget under fire

(Continued from page 1)

redress the situation.

The majority of the deputies who took the floor Wednesday indicated they would vote in favour of the budget, but still showed the government with demands, which Deputy Fawaz Al Zu'bi (Ramtha) said are raised by voters.

The demands ranged from roads and telephone links in small villages to better health services, more educational facilities, and more economic investments and jobs in the country's cities and towns.

Calls for supporting the armed and security forces were also made by many deputies during the session, which lasted for four and a half hours.

The majority of deputies also indicated support for the

overall premise of the government's economic policy, praising its achievements in reducing foreign debts and curbing inflation.

But most deputies demanded that financial and investment laws be modernised in order to accelerate economic growth and lure more investments.

More than 40 deputies have so far requested to address the House during its deliberations of the draft budget, with the number expected to increase before the House ends its second marathon session since it convened on Nov. 23. The first was when it held a vote of confidence session on the government.

The House will resume its debate of the draft budget Wednesday.

Chamber music 'with a difference' at the RCC

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Classical chamber music with a difference — that is what Patricia Carter on piano and Julie Carter on flute will propose to their audience on Wednesday evening, Dec. 12, 1994, at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman. The concert presented by the National Music Conservatory (NMC) — Noor Al Hussein Foundation, will also feature NMC faculty members Mohammad Ali Abbas on viola and Ali Hussein Musa on cello.

Patricia Carter, the mother and Julie Carter, the daughter have selected a programme spanning not only three centuries (eighteenth to twentieth) but also several countries. Works by Franz Schubert, Frederic Chopin, Francis Poulenc and Aaron Copland will take the audience respectively to Austria, Poland, France and the U.S.

The programme includes two Impromptus, a Sonata per arpeggione and an Adagio and Rondo Concertante by Schubert, a Ballade by Chopin, a Sonata for flute and piano by

Poulenc and a Duo flute and piano by Copland.

The new generation of classical performers believes in a better musician-audience communication. No walls should be raised between them. Music must be less formal and more human, accessible. Patricia Carter takes this theory one step further, putting it into application. "The listeners are invited to truly participate in the performance. Not by clapping their hands or waving candles, a gimmicky exclusively reserved to pop concerts, but by trying to sincerely analyse their feelings, emotions and thoughts while listening to the music, and then write it down on the programme that can be returned to the theatre lobby at the end of the concert."

Mrs. Carter has performed in several countries, including Egypt, China, India, Sweden and others. She has already played two times in Jordan. The participation in the event of the two musicians from the NMC orchestra, is considered as a very positive and promising experience, totally in the spirit of the performance. All four artists expressed their enthusiasm at the idea, telling the Jordan Times that the rehearsals have been very satisfactory.

Fighting subsidies in Kabul

(Continued from page 1)

the combatants to rearm and regroup. The... lasted about 48 hours, giving thousands of Kabul residents a window to flee, until it broke Monday morning.

The Shoor-e-Nazar forces of Mr. Rabbani's lieutenant, former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud, maintained their tight hold on the airport, and there were occasional artillery duels to the south.

Except for the capture of the airport by Mr. Masoud, the frontlines elsewhere in the embattled capital appeared to have reverted to the positions

which existed before fighting broke out, observers said.

A main mosque in the city centre, hit during earlier artillery duels, lay badly scarred with a big hole in its dome and the interior eaten away by fire, although its walls escaped severe damage.

The streets were deserted and hungry dogs and cats were seen prowling for food.

In the northern areas, thronged by the displaced Afghans, people moved about in Khair Khana, Taimani and Shahr-e Nau districts. The walls there had portraits of former president Sighatullah Mojaddedi and Gen. Dostum.

NATO summit concludes

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Clinton took this invitation to Prague later on Tuesday for a meeting with the leaders of Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia, whose request for immediate NATO membership has been rebuffed.

The scheme is designed to strengthen links with the former Warsaw Pact states, many of them fearful of rising nationalism in Russia, while reassuring Moscow that it will not be shut out of new security arrangements by a second iron curtain.

"We all agreed not to isolate Russia," French President Francois Mitterrand said.

Mr. Woerner said the summit had underlined strong ties between Europe and the United States. The Europeans were concerned that the Clinton administration might be switching the main focus of its foreign policy towards Asia.

To give practical effect to Europe's greater security role, the allies agreed in principle to make available NATO military resources to the Western European Union — the designated future defence arm of the European Union.

A new military planning staff — known in NATO jargon as combined joint task forces — will be dedicated to preparing for such peacekeeping or relief operations, which may involve non-NATO troops.

Russians and Americans not so different really

These days the well-known Russian pessimism is being tempered by some pragmatic optimism, says Charles B. Neff of the American Russian Centre at the University of Alaska. "There's no question about it. People say, 'Nothing's happening. People in Moscow are doing the same thing. It doesn't matter who the leaders are. Things are worse than they were.' But once they get that said, you notice that what they are doing is going on with life... They've got food on the table. They look to me better dressed, particularly in a place like Khabarovsk. There is colour. There is a different kind of liveliness in people's steps that has been missing in the last several decades."

Russians, says Mr. Neff, are putting one foot in front of the next and are proceeding to the next thing they need to do to live better lives. "There are some massive issues — of environmental cleanup, of refurbishing cities that are just falling apart. Preventive maintenance on everything is just about nonexistent. There are very large tasks but they will, I think, be addressed as people begin to see small progress in areas around them."

"People are actually creating something. If that becomes reinforced, there is a tremendous amount of human talent there that I think will come to bear on those problems." Russians, says Mr. Neff, generally like Americans. "They admire what we have accomplished." Nevertheless, some Russians are getting "a little tired of Americans who go out there and give suggestions and make comparisons and do not stay and help with the hard tasks. They come in and give you a little training and then run away — or offer some kind of get-rich-quick scheme that is dependent upon the Russians coming up with some large amount of capital, which they don't have, or they promise things and don't deliver."

"There have been quick-buck artists just as much as there have been quick-ruble artists," Mr. Neff said. "There's a certain scepticism that the answers that America brings to the Far East are the best answers." Yet, he says, there is also recognition that America is a place that has answers about how a market operates — and the Russians are interested in learning.

"They are kind of a stubborn, careful people," Mr. Neff explained. "They don't like — any more than other people do — outsiders coming in and telling them exactly how to behave. But they are open-minded." Young Russians are quite similar to young Americans, he added. "They wonder whether their lives are going to be as good as that of their parents... A lot of young Russians are out there hustling, changing, learning English, deciding that they really want to become entrepreneurs" — World News Link.

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The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature is the only non-governmental organisation in Jordan responsible for protecting wildlife. It has established an international reputation for its conservation work.

In connection with its rapidly expanding work load, the Society is seeking suitably experienced and/or qualified people to fill the following vacancies:

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A well motivated, enthusiastic person is required to manage and develop the work of the recently formed Public Awareness Section. This section promotes the vital work of the RSCN across all sections of Jordanian Society. Much of the work is concerned with developing educational programmes for schools.

The successful candidate will have qualifications and/or experience in education or interpretation and in the management of people. Good communication skills and a commitment to wildlife conservation are essential. He or she must also speak and write fluent English.

II- HEAD OF FUNDRAISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

This newly created and very important job needs someone with excellent presentation and communication skills to manage and direct a small team of staff involved in all aspects of fundraising, marketing and public relations.

Relevant qualifications and experience in fundraising or marketing are essential. The ability to manage and co-ordinate staff and to speak and write fluently in English are also important. A genuine interest in wildlife conservation will be an advantage.

III- QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT

Candidates should have a degree in accountancy and be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) an ability to speak & write English fluently is also essential.

For more information contact administration office at:
RSCN Q.H. 2nd floor of Civil Service Consumption/ El-Jubbeh P.O. Box 6354

Closing date for applications the 20th of January
Candidates should bring C.V. and original documents

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World News

New Russian parliament opens; Yeltsin appeals for cooperation

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's new opposition-dominated parliament opened in makeshift surroundings Tuesday to an appeal from President Boris Yeltsin for a new era of cooperation between the former rival branches of the state.

"Now it is very necessary... that cooperation becomes the main thing in the relationship between the executive and legislative branches of power," he told deputies of the upper house, the part-time Federation Council.

Mr. Yeltsin sent a similar appeal to the lower house, the State Duma, meeting separately two kilometres away.

"I don't call upon you for unity of political views but there are some common values without which we cannot ensure this country's prosperity," said the message, read out by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

"These values are civic peace, stability, national unity and renewal... I see every possibility for civilised political dialogue."

The new parliament was set up after Mr. Yeltsin ended a power struggle between his government and the former parliament by sending in tanks to pound his rivals into submission in October.

The dispute had paralysed politics in Russia for more than a year and threatened to lead to civil war.

Under a new constitution narrowly approved in a referendum on Dec. 12, parlia-

ment has ceded significant authority to the president, who is now the undisputed top power in the land.

Its reduced status was emphasised by the low profile of the opening ceremony. Russian Television channels did not broadcast Mr. Yeltsin's speech live and scheduled opposition demonstrations outside attracted no more than a handful of people.

The grand former parliamentary building, the White House, had been taken over for government offices and the new parliament has to meet separately in cramped, ill-equipped buildings until a permanent home is built for it.

The exact balance of powers in the new parliament is unclear. But Communists and extreme nationalists outnumber supporters of Mr. Yeltsin's radical market reforms.

The Duma began its work by observing a minute's silence, at the suggestion of the Communists, for those killed during a revolt by the old parliament on Oct. 3 and its suppression the following day.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov pledged to try to cooperate with Mr. Chernomyrdin's government.

"Today neither the president nor the government nor the parliament has enough power to change the situation and deal with the crisis," he told reporters before the opening.

"The country can only be put back on track if the three combine their efforts."

But a former top Yeltsin aide, Gennady Burbulis, took a gloomy view, predicting that nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy would sacrifice the legislature to his presidential ambitions.

"It is quite obvious that many political forces in the Duma will use parliament to prepare for the next presidential elections and because of this the new parliament could work against stability," Mr. Burbulis told reporters.

In his 15-minute address, Mr. Yeltsin promised to defend the new constitution. The opposition wants to change it but Mr. Yeltsin said Russian statehood depended on the constitution and he hoped deputies would respect it.

He said that despite his drive for a market economy, Russian legislation in many respects had failed to create the right conditions and urged deputies to do their part.

"There are still many virtually insurmountable obstacles for the businessman, the banker and the farmer," he said.

"If during your work in this area there is a breakthrough you will not only justify the hopes of your electors, but will occupy an honourable place in Russia's history."

Touching on the explosive question of regional autonomy, Mr. Yeltsin said Russia was a united state and the division of powers between the central government and the provinces was clearly defined in the new constitution. But he

added: "Strong regions create the condition for the flourishing of Russia."

Deputies expect the parliament to go into recess after Tuesday's meeting for the creation of factions.

Mr. Chernomyrdin Tuesday said his government was ready to tone down the radical economic reforms that sparked a backlash in December's parliamentary elections.

"I see every opportunity to launch a new stage on economic reforms, a stage of stabilisation during which we should provide (the right) conditions for producers," he told the inaugural session of the State Duma.

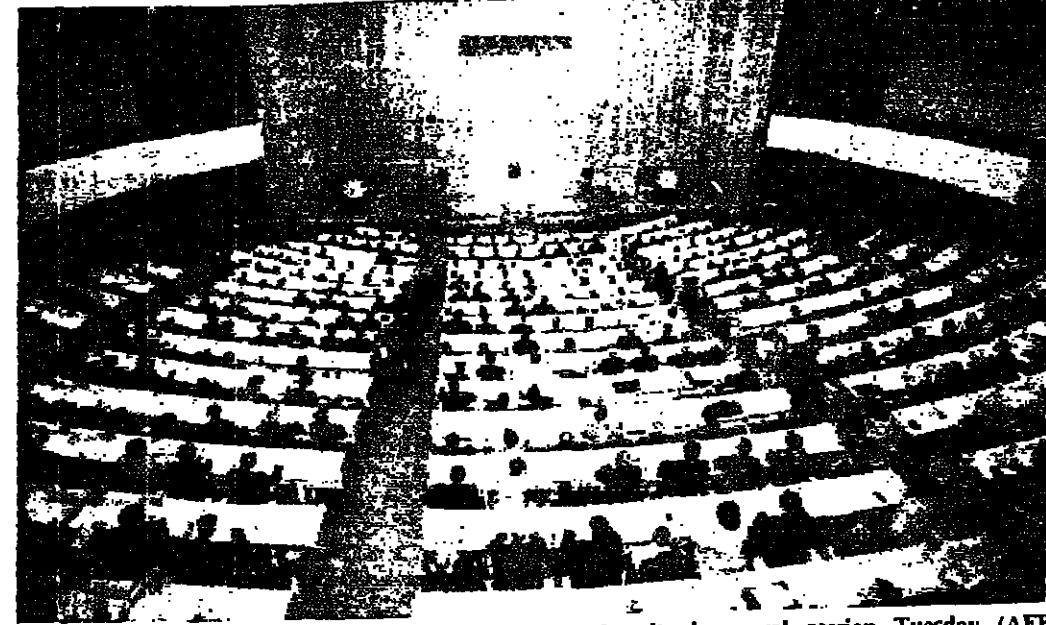
"The government will not allow ill-considered leaps forward and unreasonable shock actions," said Mr. Chernomyrdin, adding that he wanted to avoid the frequent policy clashes.

Mr. Chernomyrdin warned against simplistic, popular solutions, saying there were no easy ways of solving the crisis.

"The limit of people's patience is nearly exhausted but attempts to solve the crisis through populist measures will never succeed," he said.

"I would like to exclude certain words from the government's dictionary as regards its relations with parliament. These words are intolerance and impatience," Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

"By impatience I mean striving for fast results which leads to impressive but ineffectual results."



General view of the State Duma, the lower chamber of the Russian Federal Assembly, during its inaugural session Tuesday (AFP photo)

De Klerk, Mandela make major progress on anti-violence measures

PRETORIA (Agencies) — President F.W. De Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela emerged in an upbeat mood Tuesday from a four-hour meeting on how to deal with the violence sweeping across South Africa.

In their first joint public appearance at home since August 1990, the two leaders told reporters in the courtyard of the Union Building government offices here that they had made major progress.

But they refused to provide any details, saying they would meet again next week.

The African National Congress (ANC) leader, who went into the talks with a list of proposals he is keeping under wraps, had warned Monday that the country would find itself in a "crisis" if Mr. De Klerk rejected his offers.

"The progress that was made today was very encouraging," he told reporters Tuesday. "A crisis will emerge if De Klerk remains deaf to my proposals — but it does appear that we are making very good progress."

Mr. De Klerk said many aspects of Mandela's proposals "coincide with what we have been planning on our own, but we need the cooperation of the community in this regard."

The president said measures under consideration included "socio-economic upliftment, which will have to go hand-in-hand with stabilising the situation."

He did not elaborate.

Mr. Mandela said differences remain between the ANC and Mr. De Klerk's National Party government, but continuous negotiations appear to be narrowing the gap.

"Today we have made a great deal of progress," he said. "I wish I could spell out the significant steps that we have discussed, but they are highly sensitive and they also have to be addressed by the TEC."

He was referring to the Transitional Executive Council (TEC), a multiparty body that for the first time gives the country's black majority a say in government in the run-up to the South Africa's first all-race election scheduled for April 27.

The TEC was also meeting in Pretoria Tuesday to discuss the political violence that claimed more than 4,000 lives last year, mostly in the black townships east of Johannesburg.

Meanwhile, KwaZulu Chief

Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said Tuesday any unilateral action by South African police against the territory will be considered "an invasion."

In a statement issued in the KwaZulu capital of Ulundi, Mr. Buthelezi said a cabinet meeting Tuesday had discussed "the deployment of the South African police in areas under the jurisdiction of the KwaZulu government and the KwaZulu police."

Past practice, the statement said, was that the two forces would act in each other's areas only after consultation and that Ulundi "has always accepted the arrangements... some of which has been conducted through legislation."

"Anything outside legislation and formal cooperation and consultation between the South African Police Force and the KwaZulu Police Force will be regarded as an invasion," the statement said.

The KwaZulu government, Mr. Buthelezi said, will "not hold itself responsible for the consequences... (of) such an invasion" and will not be "accountable for anything that takes place outside formal arrangements and cooperation with the KwaZulu government."

All suspected N. Korean nuclear sites must be inspected, U.S. senator says

SEOUL (AFP) — Sam Nunn, chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, Tuesday called for inspections of all dubious North Korean nuclear facilities, including undeclared sites Pyongyang claims are non-nuclear.

At a press conference here at the end of a four-day visit, Sen. Nunn urged North Korea to open the two undeclared nuclear sites, as well as the seven declared, to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"I think North Korea would have to satisfy the IAEA inspection teams, give them access to whatever sites are necessary, in order for them to do their job and do it completely and properly," he said.

"That would include the declared sites that have been

under discussion — the seven sites — as well as two undeclared sites, and as well as other legitimate demands made by the IAEA for the purpose of assuring the world that North Korea is in compliance with the non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and its obligations," he said.

Sen. Nunn also called Pyongyang to resume a dialogue with Seoul to discuss implementation of a 1991 inter-Korean agreement, which calls for mutual nuclear verification inspections to ensure a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

The Georgia Democrat made his call amid mounting concern in the United States that even if a deal with North Korea is worked out, limitations on the first round of inspections would yield no

thing new about Pyongyang's nuclear intentions.

A New York Times report this week said IAEA agency officials would still be barred by Pyongyang from conducting special inspections of the two undeclared sites, suspected of storing nuclear waste.

Earlier Tuesday, Sen. Nunn and Gen. Richard Lugar, a Republican member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, met with President Kim Young-Sam to discuss the nuclear issue.

The meeting came as the Foreign Ministry here said Seoul's chief envoy for nuclear affairs, Kim Sam-Hoon, would leave Wednesday for Washington for top-level consultations, including talks with Assistant Secretary of State Robert Galucci.

Russia warns Latvia against new incidents

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia warned Latvia Tuesday it would react very sharply to any new incidents after Latvia said it narrowly escaped Russian military intervention following the arrest by a local Latvian official of two Russian generals.

Vitcheslav Kostikov, a spokesman for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, said an official protest to Riga over the arrests was "adequate for the moment," the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

"But should there be a repetition of such incidents, the reaction of the president and Russia could be much tougher and even very tough," Mr. Kostikov said.

The two Russian generals were arrested Monday after an argument with the mayor of a town near Riga over the future of a nearby Russian military base.

Russia immediately broke off negotiations over the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia in protest over the arrests.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's press service Tuesday also confirmed that in response to the arrests, he had put on alert the 20,000 Russian soldiers stationed in Latvia as well as several divisions of paratroopers on the Latvian-Russian border, ITAR-TASS said.

Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis acknowledged that his

country had come very close to a Russian military intervention over the incident, reviving the nightmare of its 1940 annexation by the Soviet state.

Mr. Ulmanis, in comments late Monday quoted by the Baltic News Service, said Russian troops had been put on a state of alert and "for 15 minutes they were ready to enter Latvia" after the local official had the two generals hauled off in handcuffs.

But the crisis appeared to have been defused by Tuesday. Both the Russian and Baltic News Agency said Mr. Ulmanis had officially apologised to Russia. They also said the official who had ordered the arrests, Andrejs Rucis, had been fired.

Ukraine casts doubt over signing of nuclear accord

KIEV (AFP) — Ukraine Tuesday cast doubt on whether it will sign a definitive agreement to dismantle its nuclear arsenal Friday, as announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton in Brussels.

"Despite Bill Clinton's declaration in Brussels, the Ukrainian side is not sure that the definitive version of the accord on the fate of its nuclear weapons will be signed in Moscow on Jan. 14," Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Sergeyev said.

"If by that date the definitive version has not been realised, the three-way summit (between Mr. Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk) in Moscow will be purely consultative," Mr. Sergeyev told reporters.

Sergei Golovaty, an opposition deputy in the Ukrainian parliament, which must approve any nuclear deal, said that any signature "by Leonid Kravchuk on a dismantling accord would trigger a scandal in parliament." He said that Mr. Kravchuk had "exceeded his powers" by agreeing to sign a deal in Moscow.

Mexican rebels offer peace talks

MEXICO CITY (R) — Rebels fighting army troops in southern Mexico offered to hold a truce and peace talks with the government, but they renewed a threat to take their battle to the capital if terms for the talks were rejected.

The self-styled Zapatista National Liberation Army rebels called in a communique made public Monday for a ceasefire and the return of all Mexican army troops to their bases before they would agree to negotiate an end to their 10-day uprising, which has taken at least 103 lives.

If their conditions were not met, the rebels said, "our troops will continue their advance to the capital of the country."

The offer, signed by "Subcomandante Marcos," was delivered to a newspaper in San Cristobal de Las Casas in the southern state of Chiapas where the rebels captured six cities in a New Year's Day raid.

Subcomandante Marcos apparently was the same "Comandante Marcos" the government said it has been seeking since the uprising broke out. In an accompanying letter, Marcos facetiously noted that he had been "moved to tears" by reports that he had twice been captured.

He also pointed out that his title was "subcomandante" (subcommander) and not "comandante" (commander), indicating there were other, higher-ranking Zapatistas.

The communique was dated Jan. 6, but became public a few hours after President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said he had replaced his headline Interior Minister Patricio Gonzalez Garijo and named Foreign Minister Manuel Camacho Solis as a new peace commissioner to resolve the crisis.

Mr. Gonzalez has been cited for human rights abuses during his years as governor of the state of Chiapas.

Sydney fears return of firestorms

SYDNEY (R) — Firefighters worked frantically to contain several major bush fires still burning around Sydney Tuesday as forecasts of warmer weather and stiffer winds raised fears that killer firestorms could flare anew.

"We were hoping for good weather until 6 a.m. tomorrow. We are not going to get it," said Terry Griffiths, emergency services minister for the state of New South Wales.

"The weather tomorrow, Thursday and Friday is not good and the weather Saturday is going to be bloody awful," he said. "On Saturday we may go to hell and back again."

About 150 fires continued to blaze across the state Tuesday. Four people have been killed and more than 190 homes destroyed in the fires which have raged through New South Wales and Sydney's northern and southern suburbs for two weeks.

The economic impact of the fires was also becoming clearer Tuesday. Estimates of damage to residential and commercial properties was put at about \$100 million.

The New South Wales government also said the costs of fighting the blazes had reached \$79 million.

Several fires were cutting large swaths through a sparsely populated area of the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, Tuesday. The Gosford area,

north of Sydney, also remained under threat.

Fires in the north Sydney area around Davidson National Park, which threatened the affluent suburb of St. Ives, were nearly extinguished by water bombing Tuesday while tactical burning and infrared radar helped contain others across the state.

Tuesday's weather offered some reprieve for firefighters for the third day in a row, temperatures hovered around 25 degrees Celsius (77 Fahrenheit), compared with about 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) at the height of the crisis Saturday.

But hot northwesterly winds, which fuelled Saturday's fires, were expected to whip up Wednesday and Thursday and pose new threats of fire outbreaks in northern Sydney, said Phil Koperberg, chief of New South Wales Bush Fire Services.

"I just think we should remain alert and not regard the episode as being over in totality until the fires are all burnt out or we've had a half an inch of rain or something," he said.

People who lost homes and belongings continued to sift through the rubble and talk of plans to start again. From the air, northern areas of Sydney resembled a checkerboard of black smoke and open ground.

One resident described the usually pristine and untamed forests of the Blue Mountains

as a "pile of burnt matchsticks."

Police Tuesday announced the creation of a task force to work with fire experts to examine all aspects of the fires, many of which were lit deliberately. Eleven people have been arrested.

With the fires retreating, many firefighters who had come here from across Australia began flying home. The firefighters have been hailed as heroes for saving thousands of homes.

Schools, churches, petrol stations, shops and small factories have also been destroyed in the swift-moving firestorms that in the past nine days burned over 600,000 hectares (1.5 million acres), including almost all of Sydney's Royal National Park, the world's second oldest national park.

Experts said it would take 250 years for the 15,000 hectare (40,000 acre) park to recover.

The fires had severely depleted the habitat of one of Australia's main koala populations, Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) Executive Director Deborah Tabart said Tuesday.

"We suspect several small koala populations have become extinct in the Grafton area," she said. "These are slow-moving animals who tend to climb trees when they are in danger."

Zanzania bans S. Africa's radical PAC

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Tanzania banned the radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) Tuesday from using its territory as a base for attacks on South Africa, the Foreign Ministry said.

Foreign Ministry officials summoned PAC representative to Tanzania Raymond Johnson and handed him a strongly worded government statement condemning recent violence blamed on the PAC inside South Africa.

Sinn Fein wary over reassurance

BELFAST (R) — Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, has responded warily to a declaration by Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds that British imperialism in Ireland was dead, hinting it still wants Anglo-Irish peace plans clarified.

"Sinn Fein will examine carefully... remarks by the Taoiseach (Irish Prime Minister)," Sinn Fein Vice-President Pat Doherty said in a statement. Mr. Reynolds had used a speech in Dublin Monday to try to win Republican approval for a peace plan on Northern Ireland which he and British Prime Minister John Major drew up on Dec. 15. "We will respond fully in due course. We have, however, always advised against this form of dialogue via the media, megaphone communication is not the best means to engage in conflict resolution," Mr. Doherty said. The IRA meanwhile has kept up its military campaign to oust Britain from Northern Ireland since the peace plan.

Balladur surges ahead in polls

PARIS (AFP) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur is firm favourite to be elected next president, with 62 per cent support according to the latest opinion poll published here Tuesday. He has garnered seven additional points in a month, despite growing unemployment, a fresh outbreak of discontent in the education system, and the controversial expulsion to Iran of two Iranian murder suspects wanted for questioning in Switzerland. Trailing behind Mr. Balladur on 43 per cent, a 19-point gap, is the Socialist Jacques Delors, current head of the European Commission. Even further behind at 33 per cent is the leader of Balladur's neo-Gaullist RPR party Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, the poll showed. The election for the successor to Francois Mitterrand is due in May 1995.

NEWS IN BRIEF

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Zhirinovskiy warns Ankara

ANKARA (AFP) — Russian ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy Tuesday warned Ankara over its "interventionist" policies in the Caucasus and Central Asia. In an interview with the private Turkish television channel Kanal-6, Mr. Zhirinovskiy said: "We respect all the accord on respecting existing borders in our region. But Turkey has a tendency to intervene in the affairs of the Turkish-speaking countries in a spirit of pan-Turkish expansionism." He was referring to the former Soviet republics of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, all of which have close linguistic ties to Turkey. Mr. Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, said the summit of Turkish President Suleyman Demirel in Baku on Jan. 21 and 22, which Turkey had raised a lot of questions. He went on to assert that a third world war was "inevitable" if the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan and similar conflicts "continue without solution."

Abkhazia peace talks resume

GENEVA (AFP) — U.N.-sponsored peace talks between Georgian officials and Abkhazian separatist leaders resumed here Tuesday, with the focus on ensuring the return to 200,000 refugees to the breakaway Black Sea region. The Organisation of a referendum on the constitutional status of Abkhazia within Georgia is also on the agenda, diplomatic sources said. A first round of talks here culminated in the Dec. 1 signing of a memorandum of understanding under heavy pressure from Russia. That document called for a ceasefire, the release of 19 prisoners of war and the freedom to return home for Georgian refugees who fled their homes during 17 months of civil war. Georgian officials accuse the separatist Abkhazians of blocking the return of the refugees by pursuing offensive operations, notably around Gali in the north and the Kodori River Valley which forms the frontier between Abkhazia and Georgia. "The situation is serious. It is no longer time for declarations... It is time for progress," said Shalva Piskhadze, a member of the Georgian government delegation headed by Jaba Ioseliani, a former militia leader now allied to President Eduard Shevardnadze.

Midler raises \$250,000 to fight AIDS

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A Bette Midler concert raised \$250,000 to support the fight against the deadly disease AIDS, a San Francisco AIDS group said Monday. Five hundred of the several thousand tickets to Midler's New Year's Eve concert in San Francisco were sold for \$500 each with the proceeds going to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. The organisation offers counselling to people with AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) and HIV, the virus which causes the disease, and backs campaigns to prevent the disease from spreading. Midler performed songs from throughout her career during a three-hour show, with singer Patti LaBelle also making a surprise appearance. The sum was the largest donation the San Francisco AIDS Foundation has received from an individual artist from a live concert in San Francisco, the promoters said. "We couldn't be more delighted to accept this donation," Pat Christen, executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, said. The foundation, which has an annual budget of some \$7 million, raises 70 per cent of its funds from private sources. Midler said she was pleased to raise money for an organisation fighting AIDS. "New year's eve was one of the best nights of my life," she said.

Unauthorised kissing lands man in jail

DHAKA (R) — A 22-year-old Bangladeshi man landed in jail after he stopped a newly-married girl on a busy street and kissed her in public, police said Tuesday. Mohammad Minto halted a rickshaw carrying the half-veiled 18-year-old in old Dhaka City Monday and started kissing her. He said later he was unable to keep his passion under control. "The girl screamed at the stranger and people around turned on him but he was irresistible. He kept kissing someone else's wife, a serious offence under Bangladesh law, until police arrived," one witness said. Police said the girl, whom they would not identify, almost fainted. Minto was beaten up by passers-by and was locked up in the police station. An officer said he would be jailed for up to two weeks or freed with a warning.

Accuser: Jackson had seduction campaign

LOS ANGELES (R) — Pop superstar Michael Jackson set out to seduce a 13-year-old boy, even using the horror film, The Exorcist, to frighten him into sleeping in the same bed, according to court documents filed Monday. The boy, who became 14 Tuesday, said in a sworn statement his seduction included masturbation and taking baths with Jackson.

Lorena Bobbitt trial goes into second day

MANASSAS, Va. (R) — The trial of Lorena Bobbitt enters its second day Tuesday after dramatic testimony by ex-husband that she cut off his penis while he slept. But lawyers for the 24-year-old manicurist said she acted after a "region of terror" inflicted upon her by her husband throughout their turbulent four-year marriage. The lawyers argued she cut off his penis in an "irresistible impulse" she could not control. As the opening prosecution witness in her trial for malicious wounding, John Wayne Bobbitt, 26, said in halting testimony Monday he could not remember if he had sex with his wife early last June 23 before she wielded her knife. Her legal team insists her husband raped her before the dismemberment, a charge on which he was acquitted two months ago at a trial in the same country courthouse. Lorena fled their apartment after the incident with her husband's dismembered penis and later threw it out of her car. Police recovered it and took it to a hospital where surgeons reattached it in an operation lasting more than nine hours. In describing the incident to the jury of seven women and five men, John Bobbitt said he had tried to have sex with his wife after she made amorous advances but said he could not do so, saying he was exhausted after being up nearly 24 hours. After falling asleep, he said he was awakened when he felt some tugging. "She pulled on my groin area twice and after that she just cut it off," he said.

Small town in Norway awaits Olympic invasion

OSLO (AFP) — The final countdown to a demonstration that a small town in a little country can stage a worldwide extravaganza has started.

With a month to go to the Feb. 12 opening of the XVII Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, the snow is reassuringly thick and temperatures are heading down to minus six degrees Celsius.

Organisers hope that nothing can now stop the Olympic circus. "Everything is under control," said the games organisers' information director Tor Arne.

"We have all kinds of back-up arrangements if something should go wrong," he added. And with some 2,000 athletes from 80 countries, there is little margin for error.

Norway has spent seven billion kroner (\$959 million) on the event. Lillehammer Olympic Organising Committee (LOOC) President Gerhard Heiberg expressed Norwegian determination to put the small town of Lillehammer on the world map.

Much emphasis is being put on being economical and ecological. Food plates are made of potato starch and will be recycled as animal fodder, for example.

"The Lillehammer games is a showcase for Norwegian expertise in areas such as environmental protection, technology, design and architecture," Heiberg emphasised in the LOOC magazine Olympic Update.

In an increasingly cost-conscious environment, the organisers expect the games to break even, and inspecting the main arenas last week. Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said she was impressed.

"The creativeness of the organisers and the prospects for future use of the arenas fully justify the big investment," she said.

Most of the 115 events in 12 disciplines are in or near Lillehammer. But some spectacular arenas have also been constructed in neighbouring cities.

At Gjøvik, 50 kilometres south of Lillehammer, a sports hall blasted out of the bedrock

of a mountain, will host the opening rounds of the ice hockey.

The Hamar Olympic Hall, shaped like an overturned Viking longboat, will host all speed skating.

The Haakon Hall in Lillehammer's Olympic Park, venue for the ice hockey finals, is considered an architectural and engineering masterpiece. Its advanced heating system even recycles warm water used in the showers.

The spectacular ski jumping arena, with room for 50,000 spectators, is set to become a new landmark for Lillehammer.

Around 1.3 million tickets have been offered worldwide and 100,000 visitors are expected on each of the 16 Olympic days, with peaks for the opening and closing ceremonies.

Fans and competitors can be reassured about the weather forecast. Snow has been falling for weeks and the ski tracks are excellent.

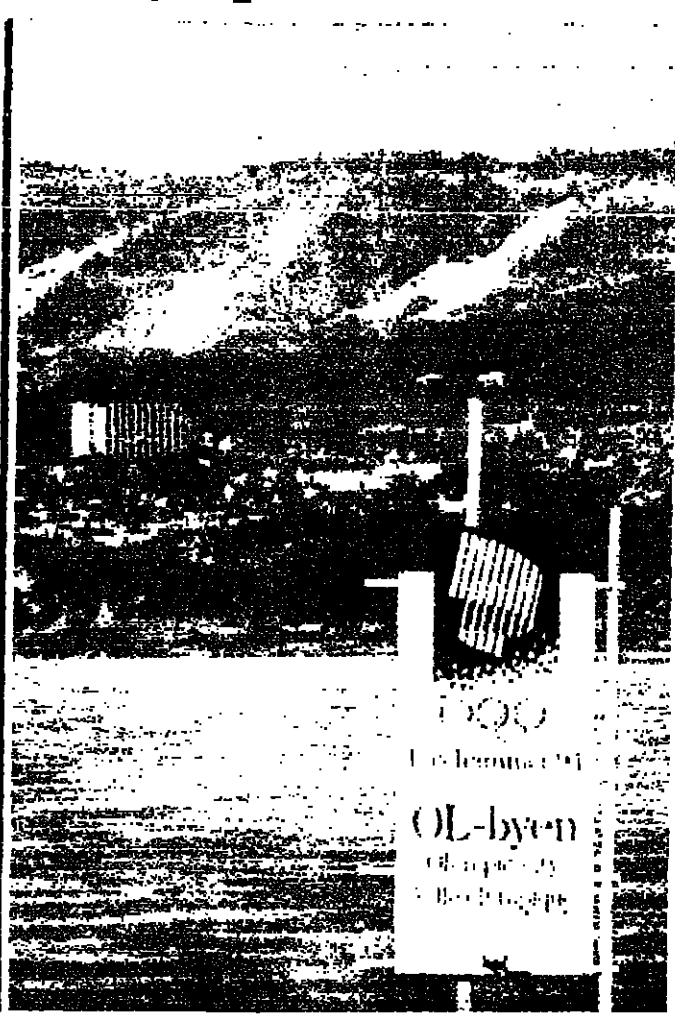
Daytime temperatures are expected to be around minus six degrees Celsius (21 degrees Fahrenheit) with minimal wind and not too much cloud. Statisticians say there is a less than two per cent chance of the cold falling to minus 20 degrees Celsius (minus six Fahrenheit).

As at all Olympic Games, traffic jams are a major fear. So hundreds of buses will shuttle spectators from one arena to another. All visitors will have to enter Lillehammer by bus or train and even locals will have car access restricted.

Trains will leave Oslo every ten minutes during peak periods for the three hour trip to Lillehammer.

And, as at previous games, VIP's will be the exception to the transportation rule. Royalty, stage and screen stars, politicians and business leaders will flock to Lillehammer, according to LOOC.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and its guests is a circus unto itself. The IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch has denied Norwegian press reports that IOC members would even be



With the ski jumping arena and the calm waters of Lake Mjøsa providing the backdrop, an Olympic billboard announces the imminent arrival of the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway (AFP photo)

taking flasks of their own blood to the games in case there was an accident that needed a transfusion.

"That is just stupid," said Samaranch, who often denies tales of IOC excess.

But 2,000 official guests will get G or GV (guest very important) badges.

About 200 GVs will be able to get into any site and drive around with their chauffeur. The 1,800 GS, who include ambassadors from competing countries, can go to all sites but must buy tickets to events like other spectators.

The opening ceremony, hosted by actress Liv Ullmann and archaeologist Tor Heyer-

dahl, will be one of the top draws.

Traditional Lapland songs, 2,000 extras, 400 children, the Norwegian Royal Guard, ski troops will perform before a public who will be given a special white uniform as they enter the venue.

But the two designers, Benetton and Dag Alveberg, are keeping secret some surprises.

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had played their hearts out.

Most of the spectators had abandoned hope of witnessing a goal when Adams suddenly struck for cup specialists Arsenal who have been beaten only once in 27 knock-out matches.

But this proved to be possibly their greatest test of physical commitment, strength and will.

Pat Van Den Hauwe and Keith Stephenson blotted out the highly-rated Kevin Campbell-Ian Wright partnership, while Alex Rae, Phil Barber and Andy Roberts worked tirelessly in the Millwall midfield.

The super-charged atmosphere contributed to a hot-potch of a match where hurried passes frequently went astray and hasty goal attempts ended in the highest rows of the new grandstands.

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Lendl unhappy with Becker claims on drugs

Sampras advances at NSW Open

SYDNEY (Agencies) — Ivan Lendl said Tuesday that Boris Becker owed tennis an apology if he was unable to back up his claims about drug-taking in the sport.

After beating another former world number one Mats Wilander 6-2, 6-1 in his opening match at the New South Wales (NSW) Open, then suddenly everyone will start saying I'm back, that's what I'm hoping for."

Australia's Pat Cash also insisted he had a future in the game, despite fading to a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 defeat against Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic.

"I'm not giving it away," said Cash, who has been working hard to recover from a serious knee injury. "If I don't win a match in six months it doesn't matter."

The men's and women's events in Sydney lost two seeds apiece, with the men's second seed Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine out without hitting a ball.

He pulled out with continued knee problems and despite a pain-killing injection to ease the pain and is doubtful for the Australian Open starting next Monday.

His withdrawal at least opened the way for Australian Jamie Morgan to prove a point to tournament organisers who declined to offer him a wild card in his home city. Drafted in as a late replacement, he beat German Marc Goellner 6-1, 7-6.

The one-sided match lasted just 59 minutes and cast doubt

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over the 29-year-old Wilander's ability to climb back up the rankings from his current spot at number 325.

"It's a lot of traveling just to play for an hour," he said ruefully. "At this stage, I want to keep playing. If I have a good Australian Open, then suddenly everyone will start saying I'm back, that's what I'm hoping for."

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been destroyed and 113 severely damaged, and 30 other buildings have been lost. Four people, including two firefighters, have been killed, and thousands treated for smoke inhalation.

The White City gates will be thrown open to spectators Wednesday evening and players will mix among the crowd taking donations.

Read said a minute's silence would be observed for those who died.

Pam Shriver, president of the Women's Tennis Association, said she had been shocked at the devastation in areas surrounding Sydney.

"Everyone has a home and the thought of it all going up in flames is something pretty horrifying," Shriver said.

"I've heard about these bushfires for years and years in Australia. I remember my coach (Don Candy) telling me the people of Australia come to understand this as part of their nature, but it's still fairly disconcerting."

American player Todd Martin said players would donate to the appeal individually, as well as through the men's and women's player associations.

"We're also planning to auction some rackets and clothing," he said.

"It's unusual for us to be in a city when a catastrophe is so close," said Shriver. "When you see people's homes and their entire possessions go up, it strikes a chord."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Nuclear waste overflows into Israeli reserve

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Radioactive waste has overflowed into the desert of southern Israel, the site of a nature reserve, Haaretz newspaper reported Tuesday. The Israeli Nuclear Energy Agency told Haaretz that heavy rainfall had caused the cooling tanks of the Dimona nuclear centre to overflow into the Makhtesh Hakatan nature reserve over the last two weeks. But the agency has left no trace of contamination. Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said over Israeli radio. In August 1992, Haaretz reported a rise in levels of radioactivity in the same region after Dimona discharged waters from its cooling tanks without authorisation. The Health Ministry said there was no contamination. The nuclear centre was built in the 1950s in cooperation with France. Its safety methods are out of date, according to Israeli newspapers.

Lebanese ambassadors named

BEIRUT (AP) — In the first major reshuffle of its diplomatic corps since the eruption of civil war in 1975, Lebanon has named 25 new ambassadors to the western hemisphere, Europe, Asia and Africa, taken in a cabinet session attended by President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri late Monday, was designed to redistribute major diplomatic posts equally between Muslims and Christians, the officials said. The new ambassadors join 35 others who will remain in their posts, according to the officials. Although the breakdown of Muslims and Christians in the new diplomatic lineup was not available, the officials said the new appointments ended a decades-long 6-to-5 Christian edge and ushered in equality. Foremost among the appointments was Riyad Tabbara, a Sunni Muslim, who was named ambassador to Washington, replacing Simon Karam, a Maronite Catholic, who resigned last year, the sources said. Samir Mubarak, a Maronite, was named ambassador to the United Nations, replacing Sunni Khalil Mekki, who will retire in July, said the sources.

Zhirinovskiy 'proud of his Jewish father

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Russian ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has told an Israeli newspaper that he is proud of his Jewish father. "I have never hidden that my father was Jewish," Mr. Zhirinovskiy said in an interview published in Tuesday's tabloid daily Maariv. "I am proud of my father, of my mother and of my motherland Russia," he said, a year after denying in an Israeli television interview that his father, who died in 1946, was Jewish. The far-right Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader, who has been accused of stirring up anti-Semitism, went on: "Jews in Russia are in a special situation. Ninety per cent of the members of Lenin's party were of Jewish origin and many ministers think that the democratic revolution underway in Russia is run by Jews. Russians are not risking joining in the process. Ninety per cent of the members of my party are Jewish." The Jewish Agency, a semi-official body which runs immigration into Israel, revealed that Mr. Zhirinovskiy applied to emigrate to Israel in 1983. He was also active during 1989 in the Russian Jewish group Shalom, made up largely of communists and Zionist Refuzniks, which backed Glasnost, agency official Baruch Gur said.

Church official asks Libya for money

RALEIGH (AP) — An official for the Episcopal diocese of North Carolina asked Libya for financial help for one of two men who took hostages at a newspaper office in 1988. The Rev. Jim Lewis wrote to Dr. Ali Ahmad Al Houderi, Libya's ambassador to the United Nations, asking whether Libya would be willing to pay a lawyer for Eddie Hatcher, who is serving an 18-year prison sentence for kidnapping. "Something is wrong when I'm having to appeal to an enemy of our country to try to get a little justice," Mr. Hatcher said Monday in a brief telephone interview from prison. "There are people that have done more harm than I have and have already been paroled." Last year, the North Carolina council of churches declared Mr. Hatcher a political prisoner. "We feel that politics is playing a game here," Mr. Lewis said. "I just think it's not politically advantageous to release Eddie at this time when we're talking about crime." Mr. Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs both pleaded guilty to 14 counts of second-degree kidnapping after arming themselves with sawed-off shotguns and holding up to 20 people hostage in the newsroom of the Robesonian for 10 hours on Feb. 1, 1988. The two men said they decided to storm the Robeson County newspaper to draw attention to their charges of drug trafficking and corruption in county government. They were acquitted of federal charges in October 1988, then convicted and imprisoned on kidnapping charges brought by a Robeson county grand jury. Sarah Kamal, a secretary at the Libyan mission in New York, said the ambassador had forwarded the letter to Libya.

Qadhafi brands militants as 'traitors'

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has branded Islamic militants as "traitors" working for the West. Colonel Qadhafi, who has taken a hardline against the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, said "We are ready to destroy and burn" their houses. In a televised speech broadcast late Monday, militants were "anti-Islamic, and working for the enemy, backed by Western intelligence... and carrying out a dangerous plot against the Arab and Islamic nation." Among other groups, the Libyan leader singled out the Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah and Talaah Al Fatah which are at the forefront of a campaign of violence against the government of President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt. Col. Qadhafi spoke in Qarabuli, 50 kilometres east of Tripoli, in a region where the Libyan opposition reported an army mutiny in October.

Maverick Israeli finance minister dies

TEL AVIV (AP) — Yigal Hurwitz, a maverick finance minister who tried to liberalise Israel's economy and brought down the government when he did not get his way, died Monday. He was 75. His son Yoan told the Associated Press he died at his farm in Kfar Warburg after a long illness. Born in a small village in Palestine in 1918, Mr. Hurwitz abandoned his plow for a career in commerce where he made millions by rescuing bankrupt companies. He joined the government in 1977 in Menachem Begin's Likud coalition as minister of tourism and commerce, but quit in protest over the peace deal with Egypt. With inflation hitting three digits in 1980, he was returned as finance minister. He abandoned the Israeli lira for the shekel and demanded subsidy reductions vowing to "cut into the living flesh" of the budget to force an enormous public service sector to move to industrial jobs. Hurwitz resigned after a year when the government, exasperated by persistent labour unrest in the early 1980s, overrode his austerity plans. This fractured begins coalition and brought on early elections. Hurwitz later served as a minister without portfolio in subsequent governments as head of his often one-man Ometz Party until 1988.

U.S. team flies home after talks in Israel

DAMASCUS (R) — A U.S. team seeking information on mission Israeli soldiers left for home Tuesday after talks in Syria and Lebanon which diplomats described as satisfactory. They said the delegation of assistants to congressmen would prepare a report on the outcome of their talks with Syria Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa and Lebanese officials. It was not clear whether they would return to the region. A Lebanese presidential spokesman denied a report quoting official sources as saying the U.S. team would visit Beirut for talks with President Elias Hrawi on Tuesday.



Sarajevans walk beside the body of a woman, a street of the neighbourhood of Alipasino Polje who was killed a few minutes ago by a grenade in Sarajevo Tuesday (AFP)

Yemenis agree on measures that may end political crisis

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemen's rival factions have agreed to military and political measures they hope will end a crisis that has paralysed the government and plunged the troubled economy into a deeper slump, party sources said Tuesday.

They said a 27-man "national dialogue committee" entrusted with resolving differences between the northern president and his deputy, a southerner, agreed on the measures in Aden late on Monday.

The sources said the measures appeared to go some way towards appeasing the Aden-based Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) of Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh, who has stayed away from the capital Sanaa since July amid fears that the 1990 merger between North and South Yemen may be threatened.

The accord calls for the withdrawal of troops and military encampments from major Yemeni cities and the arrest of Yemenis suspected of involvement in a spate of political killings.

The YSP, which is unified Yemen's second largest party and ruled the former Marxist South Yemen before the merger, says at least 150 of its members have been assassinated in the past few months — the latest was a pro-YSP tribal leader killed on Friday in Sanaa.

The sources said the accord also meets a key YSP demand for the central bank to come under the authority of the government headed by the YSP's Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas. It has so far been under President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a con-

servative who ruled North Yemen until the merger. The YSP earlier rejected reconciliation with Mr. Saleh and his General People's Congress (GPC), impoverished Yemen's largest party, unless steps were taken to implement its 18 demands.

Southern sources say the YSP would not be satisfied with promises and wanted to see concrete actions before ending its boycott of Mr. Saleh. It says the two sides had in the past reached several accords which were never implemented.

The three parties in the ruling coalition — the YSP, GPC and the Islamist Islah — have been meeting with other Yemeni politicians in Aden for the past 10 days after holding several sessions of the committee in the north.

Each of the three parties has five members. The committee also includes five opposition representatives and seven of the country's leading figures such as former presidents.

The sources said that among other points agreed were government spending cuts, anti-corruption measures and some decentralisation measures that would reduce the power of the central government in Sanaa. It was also agreed that a date be set for local elections after last year's first democratic general elections.

4 oil workers freed

Four Yemeni employees of the U.S. firm Hunt Oil have been released by tribal leaders who were still holding five others including a Briton and a Canadian, Yemeni officials said.

A group from the Khawlan tribe kidnapped the nine Tuesday in the Maareb region 100 kilometres east of here and are demanding money and the release of one of their own men in exchange, Hunt engineers said. It was earlier reported that only six people had been abducted.

Officials said three Yemeni workers had volunteered to stay with Briton Peter Jackson and Canadian George Hawkins while four other local employees were released.

Hunt Oil executives refused to make any comment, saying the case was now in the hands of the government "which is continuing its efforts."

The nine were kidnapped after flying to the Maareb area to inspect a leak at a pumping station. Hunt engineers said, adding that the helicopter was also seized.

In an unconfirmed report, the Yemeni Socialist Party's Al Thawri newspaper reported the oil workers were trying to defuse a bomb planted by the Khawlan on one of the company's pipelines.

Several other foreigners have been abducted in recent months by tribes trying to exert pressure on the government, struggling to cope with serious economic and political problems.

Daham tribesmen kidnapped an American diplomat, Haynes Mahoney, in November holding him for a week. It also held two American engineers from Hunt Oil for five days in May.

The Daham and Khawlan are part of the Bakil tribal group, which is generally loyal to President Saleh. But the Khawlan are known to support the YSP.

Petra papyrus scrolls unravel fragment of Byzantine history

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Papyrus scrolls unearthed near a Byzantine-era church in Petra have been identified as dating back to the fifth and sixth centuries A.D. and contain the name of a patriarch who, history says, was banished to the ancient city during that period, according to the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR).

The findings indicate that the church itself could have been the seat of a Christian bishop of Palestine dating back to the same period, ACOR said.

ACOR, which is conducting excavations at the site, said the identification of the scrolls, discovered in early December, was made with help from Ludwig Koenen, professor of papyrology at the University of Michigan and former president of the American Philological Association.

The scrolls, of a type characteristic of the Byzantine period, have to undergo much closer examination before more definite results could be obtained but initial findings indicate that they were written by more than one person and could be personal writings such as sermons, letters or contracts, rather than literary work, ACOR said.

The documents are in cursive Greek "documentary style" typical of the 5th-6th centuries, said ACOR, whose excavations at the site are conducted in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities under a grant from the United States Agency for International Aid (USAID).

Forty scrolls have been found and work is continuing. Their width is about 30 centimetres and could run into several metres in length, said Glenn Peterman of ACOR.

He said archaeologists at work at the site expect to find up to 50 scrolls. Some of those already found were parts of one scroll, and thus it is difficult at this time to pinpoint the exact number of the documents, he said.

Mr. Peterman said it was a "very tricky process" to read the scrolls further because they were all carbonised. But, he said, there are techniques which could salvage the scrolls through a process involving chemical treatment and taking down the scrolls piece by piece.

It will be a "very expensive process, and there are only five or six people" in the world qualified to do the job. Mr. Peterman told the Jordan Times, adding that ACOR was putting together a team of experts to be entrusted with the task.

The scrolls, all tentatively dated to be written within a span of 200 years, unroll only from top to bottom and the texts are in single columns on the inside of the scrolls.

The carbonisation made it a very delicate task to unroll the scrolls for fear of fragmentation. But some of the scrolls have writings on both sides and the text is readable only on isolated papyrus fragments.

"Some translated words seem to refer to a spiritual or tangible heritage: an agreement (contract) or confession, and one word has been translated alternatively as 'by

fire' or 'related to wheat'." ACOR said in a press statement. Another fragment refers to a "king."

Non-Greek script has not yet been identified, and it is possible that it could be some form of Aramaic.

The scrolls were unearthed after archaeologists continued work in an area adjacent to the Byzantine church, which was discovered in 1990 and opened for the media in May 1993. The church floor is inlaid with mosaics with colourful images of birds, animals and stars.

According to ACOR, the most significant find among the scrolls is a fragment bearing words translatable as "Flavianus Patriarchus" — apparently referring to Flavianus, a patriarch of Antioch who was banished to Petra in early sixth century for alleged heresy by Byzantine Emperor Anastasius. Flavianus is believed to have lived in Petra for the last six years of his life.

The nature of the text in which his name is mentioned is not known yet, but "the arrangement of the texts in the scrolls indicate that they are more likely personal writings... standardised or published text like a Bible or a Greek tragedy," ACOR said.

This significant reference "strengthens the suggestion that the recently excavated basilica may have been the seat of the Bishop of Third Palestine — which is known from historic texts to be located in Petra, and that the adjacent structure in which the scrolls were found was perhaps a monastery," according to ACOR.

Bosnia rivals ignore NATO and peace talks

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's warring factions, ignoring threats of Western air strikes and peace talks Tuesday, continued to shell Sarajevo — halting relief flights into the city just hours after they had started again.

A woman was killed and 13 people wounded as shells began pounding Sarajevo while North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders meeting in Brussels renewed their threat of air strikes to break the Serb stranglehold on the city.

The United Nations suspended relief flights into Sarajevo when mortar rounds hit the centre of the runway just after the airlift had resumed.

A U.N. relief official in Geneva said an American plane was on the ground at the time and a Canadian aircraft had only just taken off. But there were no immediate reports of injuries.

Reporters in the city said that while both sides had traded fire, much of Tuesday's shelling appeared to be going out from Muslim-held positions.

The NATO summit also called for the opening of Tuzla airport for aid deliveries and the relief of U.N. troops trapped in the eastern Muslim enclave of Srebrenica.

A final summit statement contained no specific threat to use air power now in support of those two objectives but U.S. President Bill Clinton said either of them could involve air strikes.

The summit ordered NATO's military officers to

draw up plans for possible air strikes around Tuzla and Srebrenica.

French and British officials had suggested on Monday that they were looking for a stronger and more specific ultimatum including the threat of immediate air strikes.

But this met opposition from some allies, in particular Canada whose soldiers are trapped in Srebrenica.

In Bonn, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman backed away from initial claims that Bosnia's Muslim-led government had backed a draft peace settlement, saying only that Muslims favoured a pact with Bosnian Croats.

Mr. Tudjman said Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic had left peace talks in Bonn promising to order a halt to a Muslim offensive in central Bosnia but urging more consideration of Croatian proposals for an overall peace plan.

A Bosnian spokesman in Bonn said both sides had agreed to enter "expert-level talks" this week on ending hostilities.

Mr. Tudjman said Mr. Izetbegovic had promised to answer with his own proposals by Jan. 15, three days before full-scale talks on ending the 21-month, three-way Bosnian civil war resume in Geneva.

As Mr. Tudjman spoke, hard-pressed Bosnian Croat soldiers fought to defend a Croat enclave in the Lasva Valley from encircling Muslim forces for a third day.

Nine people were reported killed since the start of the Muslim offensive on Sunday.

Palestinian firm plans to build 13 new towns

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian construction group put forward Tuesday "a giant national project" to build 13 towns on the West Bank and Gaza Strip at a cost of some \$90 billion over the next decade.

Three cities in Gaza would each house 250,000 people and another 10 developments on the West Bank a total of 500,000, said Issa Odeh, a director of the Philistia building firm.

"To erect a strong and durable economy we see that there is the need for a giant national project which can concentrate all the Palestinian forces... and constitute the backbone of this economy," he told a press conference.

Mr. Odeh predicted the private sector plan would create 150,000 jobs.

More than 600,000 of the 780,000 Palestinians living in Gaza are considered refugees by the United Nations and 330,000 of them live in camps.

On the West Bank, nearly 480,000 of the 1.2 million Palestinians are refugees, 125,000 of them in U.N.-run camps.

Mr. Odeh called on the

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Israel and the international community to support the project, saying 40 per cent of the financing would have to be foreign investment and cheap loans.

According to Hassan Abu Libdeh, in charge of the PLO's technical committee preparing for autonomy, the housing situation in the occupied territories is catastrophic.

An average of nine people live in each house or apartment on the Gaza Strip and 7.5 people in each unit on the West Bank.

Mr. Abu Libdeh estimated that 120,000 new units were needed each year to bring down the number to six people per house by the year 2000.

However, Ibrahim Shaaban, head of the Palestinian housing council, hit out at the project. "This will reflect negatively on Palestinian credibility before donor countries," he said, calling for coordination.

The council is directing a \$20-million European Community funded housing project in Gaza.

Philistia, based in Jerusalem, has 75 employees engaged mainly in construction projects in Israel.

U.S.-Saudi talks move ahead on payment delay

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and Saudi Arabia are making progress in talks on a Saudi request to stretch out billions of dollars in payments for U.S. military weapons, defence officials said Monday.

Saudi Arabia, strapped for cash by low international oil prices, wants to restructure payments and avoid cancelling any of its planned \$30 billion in U.S. arms purchases.

"We anticipate it will be several weeks before an agreement is reached," said one of the defence officials, who asked not to be identified, after meeting Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar Ben Sultan.

The Saudi ambassador met with top Defence Department officials and representatives of five defence firms in Washington over the weekend.

On Monday, Prince Bandar met Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen to discuss the issue, but administration officials declined to offer any details about the meeting at the Treasury Department.

Any major delay or cut in arms sales to Saudi Arabia, America's biggest military customer in recent years, could send financial shock waves through the U.S. defence industry, especially in California.

The Clinton administration, worried about a possible further loss of defence industry jobs, is believed anxious to allow the Saudis to buy on

credit temporarily what they once bought for cash.

Defence officials refused to give details of the weekend meetings, but Air Force Major Tom Laroock, a Pentagon spokesman, said Prince Bandar Sunday met Deputy U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, army Lieutenant General Thomas Rhome and other government officials.

Officials of General Dynamics Corporation also confirmed that Prince Bandar met representatives Saturday of the company and of McDonnell Douglas Corp. FMC Corp. Raytheon Co and the Hughes aircraft division of General Motors Corp.

Prince Bandar told the Wall Street Journal in an interview published Monday the plan would be presented to Mr. Bentsen, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and Pentagon officials, and that he expected it to be made final by the end of this month.

The Saudis, Prince Bandar said, wanted to restructure some \$10 billion of its U.S. arms payments over the next two years to the five defence firms under a tentative plan discussed over the weekend.

Defence officials told Reuters last week the Saudis have emphasised they do not plan on cancelling any U.S. weapons purchases, ranging from 72 F-15 fighter jets from McDonnell Douglas to radars made by Hughes.

COLUMN

What NATO giveth NATO taketh away

BRUSSELS (AFP) — When it comes to the draft communiqué to be adopted at the NATO summit here, journalists discovered that what the alliance giveth, the alliance also taketh away. While NATO diplomats were busy distributing the texts to journalists, its security men were just as conscientiously seizing them as confidential and classified documents. One reporter arriving for a routine security check on the second day of the summit Tuesday had the files in his briefcase thoroughly checked and the draft confiscated. Security men were also seen scouring the press area for wayward texts. Which had been widely circulated among journalists in advance as is practice at all international gatherings. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) officials complained the drafts had become too public and one German newspaper had published the entire text. Even if the wording on the Bosnia conflict was still hotly debated, one NATO military official had a word of friendly advice to reporters: "Just write out the word 'confidential' and you'll have no problem," he said.

Clinton takes a stroll through Brussels

BRUSSELS (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton went on a 45-minute sightseeing stroll through Brussels just before midnight Monday after a working dinner with other NATO leaders. Mr. Clinton, accompanied by National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, stopped to chat to waiters closing up restaurants as he walked round the Ilot Sacre and Grand Place areas. He also stopped to peer through the window of an antique shop called La Trinité that he recognised from a previous visit. Wakened by the stir outside, the shop owner turned on the lights, came downstairs and opened the door to welcome Mr. Clinton and Mr. Lake. Mr. Clinton looked round the shop and took a particular interest in the antique toys — probably with his 13-year-old daughter Chelsea in mind. An aide said he purchased something but would not say what it was.

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Bank president shot by ex-director

LUGANO, Switzerland (AFP) — The head of Lugano's Gothard Bank was seriously wounded Monday by a former fellow-director who burst into his office and shot him in the chest, police said. Bank President Claudio Generali, 50, was shot in a lung by Walter Canepa, the mayor of the eastern Swiss town of Mezzorion. Police added. After the shooting Mr. Canepa, who was mayor for 30 years, struck a customer on the head with the barrel of his revolver and threatened to jump from the bank's internal tower before giving himself up to authorities, police added. Mr. Generali underwent an operation Monday afternoon and his life was not in danger, officials said. Police said they did not know whether Mr. Canepa was still employed by the bank.

Prolific Philippine eagle dies

MANILA (AP) — Diola, the Philippine eagle that hatched the first two chicks of the endangered species ever bred in captivity, has died, officials said Tuesday. Israel Gadda, regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said in a report that Diola died of cardiovascular failure at the Philippine Eagle Camp in Malagos village in southern Davao City, 976 kilometres southeast of Manila, on Jan. 8. Diola would have been 25 years old next month. The 45-60 years, said Lito Serrano, education officer of the Philippine Eagle Conservation Programme. The death brought the Philippine eagle population to 54, including 36 in the wild. Widespread deforestation has been responsible for the eagle's decline. Diola hatched in 1970, the first Philippine eagle bred in captivity, in January 1972, and another eagle, Pagkaka (Unity), a year later.